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PLUS

TO THE WEEKEND

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First U-turn enrages the old guard

Hague deserts hereditary Tory peers

By Andrew Pierce and James Landale

WILLIAM HAGUE is preparing to abandon the Tories' long-standing opposition to Labour plans to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The unexpected move, which would mark the biggest policy shift since Mr Hague became leader, would put him on a new collision course with the Tory old guard. The Conservatives, whose hereditary peers dominate the Lords, have always defended the hereditary principle.

The Tory election manifesto opposed fundamental changes to the constitution "which have not been fully thought through — such as opposition proposals on the House of Lords". But Mr Hague has told senior advisers that the party has to reconsider its position and is likely to abstain on a government Bill next year which would abolish the hereditary peers' voting and sitting rights.

Despite the planned U-turn, the Tory leadership would still try to alter some of Labour's plans. The change, which emerged from Mr Hague's policy review, was canvassed among a small group of party officials.

Hague loyalists in the Lords last night tried to play down the rethink, driven by the reality of Labour's 178-seat Commons majority which would guarantee the legislation went through. Senior

strategists at Central Office have convinced Mr Hague that the party had nothing to gain, and plenty to lose, by opposing a constitutional change popular in the country. "What is the point of getting a bloody nose in a battle we cannot win," said one Hague supporter yesterday. "This is pragmatic politics."

However, the policy change will be opposed by some Tory MPs and could lead to a high-powered rebellion in the Lords. Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone, the former Lord Chancellor who renounced his hereditary title to take a seat in the Commons, warned last night Mr Hague would not have it all his own way.

"He should leave things as they are," Lord Hailsham said. "The system has worked well since time immemorial. Critics of the system overlook the fact that many ordinary people assume hereditary peerages. I will vote against it if there is a free vote."

A senior Tory source in Lords said: "We are not unhappy with the idea of reform, but we think it should be reform that works and everything we have seen from the Labour party won't work."

Mr Hague's supporters said last night that the fact he was prepared to consider such a radical change indicated that there were no "no-go" areas for his leadership. They said that Mr Hague, like Tony

Blair, was prepared to take on critics in his own party as part of a comprehensive review of policy and organisation.

Labour will unveil the first stage of its reforms of the upper house in the Queen's Speech next year with the introduction of legislation to abolish the sitting and voting rights of hereditary peers. The Tories have 326 hereditary peers, Labour 15, and Liberal Democrats 23. The move will also prevent 205 hereditary crossbench peers from sitting.

The first stage is likely to pass through Parliament by the summer of 1999 and come into force later that year. The Tories said Labour's plans would turn the Lords into an "ermine-clad quango" of Labour life peers who would never oppose the Prime Minister.

The row over the House of Lords came as counting began today in the ballot of Conservative members to endorse Mr Hague's leadership and outline plans for party reform. Nicholas Winter, a member of the 1922 executive who backed Mr Hague in the final ballot, suggested the reforms might sweep away too many of the party's traditions and eventually, its fundamental principles. "We don't need to have a Stalinist... situation in the Conservative Party, dramatically to change what we actually believed in," he said.

Tim Hames, page 22



By Grace Bradberry, style editor

KATE MOSS, left, and Jade Jagger yesterday paid a fashion designer the greatest compliment — they waived fees for modelling in his show in return for his brilliantly coloured and hand-embroidered clothes, which sell at about £500 for a dress.

Newcomer Matthew Williamson, 25, staged his first catwalk show during London Fashion Week yesterday with a little help from his well-known friends, including the supermodel Helena Christensen as well as her colleague Miss Moss and

Catwalking for the kit

Miss Jagger, an artist, part-time model, mother of two and the daughter of Mick and Bianca Jagger.

Miss Jagger wore a bright yellow, silk drape top with lilac mini-skirt, while Kate Moss modelled a blue cashmere cardigan over a fuchsia, bias-cut dress. The showstopper was a nude georgette dress with silver beaded cobwebs, worn by Helena Christensen.

This was only Williamson's third

collection since he set up his business in 1996, but the St Martin's graduate's quirky, decorative designs have been bought by influential London fashion stores such as Browns and A La Mode as well as Barneys, the New York department store.

After the show, staged in a rehearsal hall in Notting Hill, Williamson played down his star cast. "Some of them are personal friends and they all wear my clothes anyway," he said.

Williamson was not the only designer to benefit from celebrity connections. Tomasz Starzewski let the television comedians Hale and Pace join his team of workers. Their creations — two red pinstripe shift dresses — were in the show, which will feature in a BBC documentary.

Demi Moore and Janet Jackson are among the celebrities expected to attend the six-day event. Sponsored by Vidal Sassoon, it is the biggest yet with 50 catwalk shows and a trade exhibition featuring 140 designers.

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Golf fightback

On the first day of the Ryder Cup Europe fought back to hold the US 2-3. Colin Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer lost to Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara in the fourballs but won in the afternoon. Pages 33-35

Rusedski wins

Greg Rusedski staged one of his customary comebacks to reach the semi-final of the Grand Slam Cup in Munich, the richest tournament in tennis. He will now meet Pete Sampras. Page 40

Getting The Times overseas:
Australia \$10, Belgium 8, France 110,
Germany 11, Greece 11, Hong Kong 11,
Italy 11, Japan 11, Korea 11, Malaysia 11,
Netherlands 11, New Zealand 11, Norway 11,
Poland 11, Portugal 11, Singapore 11, Spain 11,
Sweden 11, Switzerland 11, Taiwan 11,
Thailand 11, USA 11, Venezuela 11.

EMU hint pushes market to record

By Alasdair Murray and Philip Webster

REPORTS claiming that the Government is preparing for an early entry into a European single currency pushed the stock market to a record high but caused the pound to plunge yesterday.

The FTSE 100 recorded its biggest one-day points gain for ten years, closing up 160.8 points at 5226.3. At its peak, the market touched 5244.3, a rise of 178.8 points.

Bond prices also soared but the pound slumped on the foreign exchanges. Sterling fell to a four-month low against the German mark, to close down four pence at DM2.8324.

The Government moved quickly to play down the reports as speculation. It is preparing a statement in the next two months to confirm that Britain will not take part in the first wave on January 1, 1999. It will promise all the help for preparations for eco-

nomie and monetary union during the British presidency of the EU in the first six months of next year.

The move comes amid growing signs of optimism among ministers that the Government will be able to recommend entry into the single currency in a second wave.

Britain will host a summit of heads of government in London in April or May which will decide which countries can enter in the first wave. Ministers have decided that it would be illogical for Britain not to make its own position clear before that meeting.

The Confederation of British Industry said last night it looked forward to an announcement on EMU as it would bring "greater certainty" to British businesses.

Leading article, page 23
Shares soar, page 27

Drug test cloud over Tufnell

By John Goodbody

PHIL TUFNELL, the Middlesex spin-bowler, faces being dropped from the England party to tour the West Indies this winter because he allegedly refused to give a urine sample in a random drugs test last week.

Tufnell, 31, now has to appear before a disciplinary committee of the England and Wales Cricket Board to answer the charge. He is reportedly on holiday abroad and unavailable for comment.

The spinner's troubled career has included being fined £800 in 1994 by a North London court for assaulting his former fiancée, Jane McEvoy, while she was pregnant. Last February, he was accused of smoking marijuana in the lavatory of a restaurant in New Zealand, an allegation he denied.

Turbulent career, page 40

Pensioner faces war crimes trial

By Stewart Tandler, crime correspondent

A RETIRED British Rail worker has been charged with war crimes in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe. Scotland Yard said last night.

Andrzej Sawoniuk, 77, from East London, faces five charges of murdering Jews in Belarus, once part of the Soviet Union.

He was charged by officers from the Yard's war crimes unit after appearing voluntarily at Southwark police station yesterday. He was bailed to appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court on October 30.

The decision to charge Mr Sawoniuk, known as Anthony Sawoniuk, was made after John Morris, the Attorney General, gave his consent to a prosecution under war crimes legislation.

Mr Sawoniuk came to Britain in 1946. He has been under investigation for more than two years.

He is the second man in

Britain to be prosecuted under the 1990 War Crimes Act. In January three charges of murder against Szymon Serafinowicz, 85, were dropped after a judge at the Old Bailey decided he was unfit to plead because of his mental state. He died this summer.

Serafinowicz was originally charged with murdering four unidentified Jews while working as a senior policeman serving with the Nazis. One of the murder charges was subsequently dropped by the Crown Prosecution Service.

After the collapse of the trial, some MPs condemned the investigations as a waste of time and money. However, there was also strong cross-parliamentary support for carrying on with the process.

The war crimes unit, based in the Yard's organised crime group, is presently investigating three other elderly men living in Britain.

What a gay old time for new Labour

By Andrew Pierce, political correspondent

THE Labour leadership has approved a gay night at the party conference hotel where Tony Blair and the rest of the Cabinet are staying. The event will rival the more raucous attractions of the traditional Welsh and Scottish evenings, which were favourites of Neil Kinnock and John Smith.

While beer, whisky, and rugby songs dominate the Celtic gatherings ballroom dancing will be the main attraction at Wednesday's cabaret and discotheque at the Metropole Hotel.

In the past the gay movement has been consigned to meetings on the fringe. But

with one openly gay member of the Cabinet, and a Government pledge for a free vote on the age of consent, the leadership has approved a gay celebration.

All MPs have been invited and fly sheets have been printed saying: "Be gay for a night." Jackie Clune, a cabaret artist, will perform the songs of the late Karen Carpenter and the star attraction will be an all-gay dance troupe, the Pink Dancers, performing ballroom and Latin American dressed in flamenco pink. They will lead the guests through their paces in a 1950's line-dancing routine. A disco will feature gay music with the Village People heading the hit parade. The 400 tickets are selling fast and the

organisers hope that Chris Smith, the first openly gay Cabinet minister, will join in the dancing with his partner, Dorian Jabri, who discussed their relationship in *The Times*. Labour now has four MPs who have come out. Stephen Twigg, the conqueror of Michael Portillo in Enfield Southgate, Ben Bradshaw, the MP for Exeter, and Angela Eagle, the MP for Wallasey. They are all expected to appear.

Stonewall, the organisation which campaigns for lesbian and gay equality, has organised the evening which has become the most talked about event on the conference party circuit. Anya Palmer, research officer, said: "It's just a fun night with no speeches."

Zinfandel?

Didn't we see one on Safari?

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for the States

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a viewHelen Storey's
dresses based on life
before birth

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Nature NotesMeet Peter Brookes,
The Times cartoonist

A lot of bottle

Janis Robinson on
the New World wine
revolutionWEEKEND
MONEYPeppered
with cashWhere the Spice Girls
really, really count

A 1967 Ford Anglia Estate taken by Nigel Broderick and his wife Paula through a stream in Uttar Pradesh, in the Peking-Paris Motor Challenge

New hope of EU ban on tobacco advertising

BY JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Government is to press for a Europe-wide ban on tobacco advertising and sports sponsorship in a move that could speed up a ban in this country.

Health ministers are now optimistic they can get agreement for a new directive at Luxembourg in December, which could result in outlawing tobacco advertising in Britain by next autumn.

The United Kingdom has been one of a number of countries blocking attempts over for the past few years for an EU-wide ban on tobacco advertising. Other countries include The Netherlands, Denmark, Germany and Greece.

The Tories opposed the ban because it resented greater interference from Brussels and was wary of taking on the tobacco industry. However, Labour included a pledge to ban tobacco advertising in its manifesto and the Government has since announced that this will be extended to sports sponsorship.

Finland and Belgium have already introduced a ban on tobacco sponsorship of major sporting events and France has some restrictions on sports sponsorship. But Britain is now confident of toughening up the EU directive, which had originally only

dealt with tobacco advertising on hoardings and magazines, to ensure a blanket ban on sports sponsorship throughout Europe.

The Government has already agreed that the sports sponsorship ban would be phased in over about four years, allowing most existing contracts, worth £10 million, to be honoured.

The phasing-in for sports sponsorship would also apply to the EU directive but British sources made clear that they would not allow companies to renegotiate longer contracts to get round the ban.

It is understood that Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, who will be attending the Luxembourg meeting, has been talking behind the scenes to her European counterparts and is confident that she can get their agreement in December.

The Government still intends to press ahead with a White Paper on measures to reduce smoking and a draft Bill to ban tobacco advertising in December, in case the EU directive fails.

The White Paper is likely to include other proposals to discourage smoking, such as raising the smoking age, banning smoking in public places and changing the location of vending machines.



Lucille McLaughlin and Deborah Parry

Nurses warned of long ordeal

BY MIKE THEODOULOU AND DANIEL MCGRODY

THE two British nurses accused over the death of a colleague in Saudi Arabia have been told that they face at least another year's incarceration while the country's courts decide their fate.

Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlin were "inconsolable" when warned by one of their lawyers this week that the diplomatic overtures and legal haggling over "blood money" would not mean an early release, a legal source told *The Times* last night.

Parry had collapsed when she heard an erroneous radio broadcast saying that she faced execution. McLaughlin has been told that the agreement of the dead woman's brother to show clemency will also spare her from her sentence of 500 lashes.

Both women are despondent despite hearing a radio broadcast in their cell yesterday by Frank Gifford insisting that he would not ask for the death penalty. He angrily denied making a personal profit from the deal.

Anger over press, page 10

Dublin frees five IRA men as 'reward' to Sinn Fein

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF CORRESPONDENT

THE Irish government released five IRA prisoners last night in a move widely seen as a reward for the IRA ceasefire and Sinn Fein's participation in the peace process.

The releases angered loyalists and headline Unionists in Northern Ireland who complained of yet another concession to republicans while the loyalists' three-year ceasefire had yielded hardly any benefits for more than 300 of their inmates in British prisons.

The men released from the Republic's top-security Portlaoise prison were arrested on the border of Donegal and Derry in 1992 for possessing three assault rifles, two heavy machine guns and nearly 700 rounds of ammunition. The prosecution at their 1994 trial claimed they were planning to shoot down a British army helicopter and they were jailed for six years.

The five were Patrick Villa, 28, Dermot McFarland, 32, and Kieran McFadden, 34, all from Londonderry, and two men from Donegal — Michael McLaughlin, 31, and Paul Rogers, 35.

The Irish government granted early releases to more than 35 republican prisoners during the previous IRA ceasefire which last 18 months until the Canary Wharf bombing in February last year.

Before yesterday it had given only two low-level IRA prisoners early releases since

the latest IRA ceasefire began on July 20.

Sinn Fein welcomed last night's releases and called on the British Government to begin releasing all "political prisoners" immediately.

Gerry Adams, Sinn Fein's president, raised the matter with Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, and John O'Donoghue, the Justice Minister, when they met in Dublin last week.

Ian Paisley, the Democratic Unionist Party leader, said Dublin had released the IRA prisoners "to aid the IRA in warring concessions from the British government".

He warned that "in the next two or three months you will have a running amnesty for prisoners. Little by little they will all be let out."

The British government said yesterday that it had approved the transfer of one loyalist prisoner from Scotland to Northern Ireland and of another from England to Scotland.

It was considering a request of a third to be moved from England to Scotland.

Mr Paisley met Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, at Stormont yesterday, but rejected her appeal for the Democratic Unionist Party to rejoin the peace process which it boycotted in July.

Valerie Grove, page 21

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cook halts export of 'armoured carriers'

Robin Cook was criticised yesterday for banning the sale of "armoured personnel carriers" to Indonesia when it emerged that they were six converted Land Rovers without any offensive capability. They came from the Rover Group but had been converted into armoured vehicles by Courtaulds Aerospace, a subsidiary of Courtaulds, the textiles firm. Courtaulds had applied for an export licence to sell them to Indonesia, which ordered them for its police force and had paid £600,000. The Foreign Secretary rejected the export licence application under his new ethics guidelines, prohibiting the sale of military equipment that could be used for internal repression.

Welsh ally for Davies

Dafydd Wigley, the Welsh Nationalist leader, defended Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, yesterday against what he called a "vicious" campaign by some Labour MPs to elbow him from office. Mr Wigley attacked critics of Mr Davies who, he said, had "been through hell and back to get a Welsh assembly established". Pledging Plaid Cymru's backing for the assembly, Mr Wigley welcomed the Welsh Secretary's consensus approach.

Gordon Brown tops poll

Gordon Brown is the most popular Chancellor since records began, according to a Gallup poll. His work rate — handing control over interest rates to the Bank of England and introducing a sweeping budget within months of taking office — has won the Chancellor a 70 per cent approval rating. Mr Brown's nearest rival in the poll of post-war Chancellors is the late R.A. Butler, who won an approval rating of 63 per cent in 1953.

Mass for Princess

Frances Shand Kydd, the mother of Diana, Princess of Wales, will speak tonight at an "upbeat" memorial mass for her daughter at St Columba's Cathedral in Oban. She will give a reading during the special evening service, which will be attended by Archbishop Keith O'Brien, the second most senior clergyman in Scotland. At Mrs Shand Kydd's request, there will be "uplifting" organ music more akin to the "resurrection than the crucifixion".

Ovary doctor guilty

A leading gynaecologist was found guilty of serious professional misconduct yesterday and admonished by the General Medical Council for removing a 35-year-old woman's ovaries without her consent. John Studd, 57, was found to have carried out the operation in July 1992 without justification but the GMC's Professional Conduct Committee rejected Jacqueline Bartley's claim that he failed to tell her what he had done. Mr Studd can continue to practise.

Prep schools' success

An analysis of the results of more than 150 preparatory schools showed them to be almost 50 per cent ahead of the state average for 11-year-olds. In English and science, 94 per cent of preparatory school children reached Level 4 of the national curriculum, compared with 63 and 69 per cent respectively in state schools in mathematics, the figure was 93 per cent, while state primaries averaged 69 per cent.

Girls fall from flats

Two girls aged 13 and 14 are critically ill after falling from a balcony on the fifth floor of a block of flats in Bristol. Police are investigating claims that one of the girls had threatened to throw herself off and the other fell trying to save her. Residents and teachers from the girls' school, which is near the flats, gave first aid to the injured pair before they were taken to Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Food for thought

The best way to make fat people eat healthily is to ask them to record their normal diet, according to a study by the Institute of Food Research in Reading. Doctors previously thought that the obese were lying when they claimed to eat bird-like portions in studies, but they have discovered that people reduce their food intake while their diet is being monitored — and then hit the fridge after the study is over.

Keane 'in bar brawl'

Police were brought in to investigate a bar room brawl in the early hours last Thursday allegedly involving Roy Keane, the Manchester United captain. The Irish international is said to have been involved in an argument with two men at the Chester Court Hotel in Manchester. A police spokesman said: "A complaint was received and then retracted and no further action is being taken."

US buys Teletubbies

Teletubbies, the BBC television programme for young children, is to be broadcast in the United States. Under a deal announced yesterday, the corporation has sold 40 episodes of the programme to the American Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), a non-commercial channel designed to give viewers more instructive fare than is available on the country's plethora of commercial channels.

Straw challenged on right to jury trial

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Home Secretary will be challenged today over the Government's plans to look again at whether to scrap a defendant's right to elect jury trial.

Jack Straw, the key speaker at today's annual Bar conference in London, originally opposed the proposal to remove a suspect's right to choose jury trial in many middle-ranking cases that can go either to magistrates or the Crown Court. However, the Home Secretary indicated recently that there was some

support for the proposal and said the Government intend to consult further.

Robert Owen, QC, chairman of the Bar, is expected to reiterate the Bar's strong opposition to the removal of the right, which would affect cases such as theft, handling stolen goods and some sexual offences.

It is estimated that the change would result in at least 20,000 extra cases being tried by magistrates rather than going to a Crown Court, saving many millions of pounds in costs incurred when cases are sent for jury trial but the defendant changes their plea to "guilty" at the last minute.

The conference, sponsored by *The Times*, Allied Dunbar and Toshiba, and organised by Blair Communications, is the top event in the Bar year. Mr Straw, who was invited by Cherie Booth, QC, this year's conference chairwoman, is expected to depict his vision of the criminal justice system in the 21st century.

Among other key issues to be debated are proposed changes to the criminal justice system, including the so-called defendant's right to silence, and police surveillance powers contained in the Police Act 1997.

□ A judge issued a warning yesterday

to barristers who take on too many cases. Judge Dennis Levy, QC, said defendants were needlessly being kept waiting to learn their fate.

If things did not change there would be financial "repercussions", he said. He said he had been about to make a "wasted costs order" in a case until Andrew Hall, for the defence, and Janet Boston, the Crown Prosecution Service counsel, had apologised to him.

Mr Hall was late arriving in his court to represent a client after another case was delayed. Miss Boston was late because a defendant in a different court was not taken there on time.

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'Catastrophe' for world heritage



A monk offering water to one of the rescue workers at the basilica. The rubble inside was three metres deep

Treasures of 13th and 14th century left cracked and crumbling after earthquakes rock central Italy, reports **Richard Owen**

TWO powerful earthquakes which struck Italy yesterday killed at least nine people and badly damaged 13th and 14th century frescoes by Giotto and Cimabue in the basilica of St Francis of Assisi.

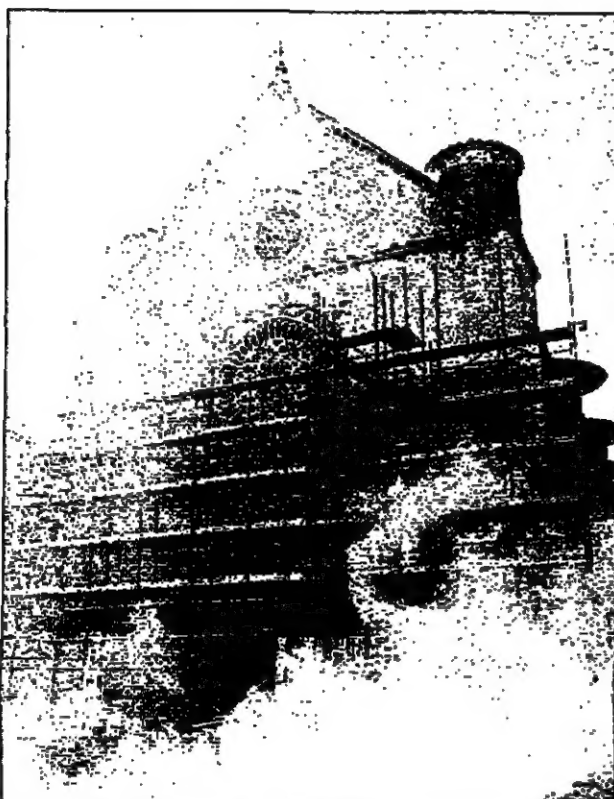
The dead included two Franciscan friars and an art restoration expert, who were examining damage caused by the first shock when the second, more severe, earthquake brought down the vaulted ceiling of the upper church of the basilica.

One of the friars, aged 25, had only just joined the order at Assisi. The other was aged 40. Rescue workers said they feared that more people could be trapped beneath three-metre layer of rubble.

The partial collapse of the church was described as "a pure catastrophe for world heritage" by the director of the Louvre, One Cimabue masterpiece, *The Acts of the Apostles*, appeared to have been almost completely destroyed.

"This is all that is left of one Cimabue fresco," said Costantino Centroni, the Superintendent of Fine Arts for Umbria, as he held a pile of dust and crumbling plaster in his hands. Behind him bulldozers and masked rescue workers shifted fallen masonry in the doorway of the basilica and clouds of dust billowed out.

A section of vaulting depicting an early church figure, attributed both to the young Giotto and Cimabue, was also believed to have been de-



Dust clouds rising as rescuers remove debris in the basilica, where three people were killed

stroyed and at least two Giotto frescoes had jagged cracks running down them.

Water supplies and road and rail traffic were disrupted across central Italy, and the Government declared an emergency.

The first earthquake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, was at 2.33am. The second, at

11.42am, measured 5.7. Both were felt as far north as Alto Adige, in the Italian Alps, and 60 miles south in Rome, where buildings swayed.

Umbria, the epicentre, often has minor tremors and residents and art experts had long feared a major shock which would pose a risk to the many art treasures in towns such as

Assisi and Perugia. Yesterday's earthquakes damaged buildings in the 15th-century town of Urbino, in the Marche, which has a ducal palace that is one of the jewels of European art and architecture.

The first earthquake was most strongly felt in villages near Assisi and in the relatively remote hill towns and villages of the Apennines. Two elderly couples from the villages of Collecchio and Cesì, in the Marche, were among those who died. Italian television, which interrupted normal programmes throughout the day to carry reports from the area, showed weeping villagers — many of them elderly — standing outside the ruins of their homes. Several villages have been evacuated in case of aftershocks.

Civil defence officials said more than 2,000 people had been made homeless because their houses were damaged or unsafe. Tents and blankets stored after the 1976 Friuli earthquake were distributed with fresh drinking water and medicines.

Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, flew to the disaster area with Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister and Culture Minister. An Italian cultural affairs minister described the damage to the works of arts as "enormous". Pierre Rosenberg, director of the Louvre in Paris, said: "We will do all we can to help our Italian colleagues."



The first earthquake cracked this Giotto fresco of St Francis and St Clair. It was destroyed by the second

It was the damage at Assisi which caused greatest concern. The giant basilica was begun in 1228, two years after the death of St Francis, and its decoration attracted the leading artists of the day. They included Giotto di Bondone (1266-1337), who is credited with laying the foundations of the Renaissance — and there-

fore of all modern art — by abandoning the flat, mannered style of Byzantine painting and creating rounded, lifelike human images.

The basilica, divided into upper and lower churches, houses St Francis's tomb which was discovered only in 1818. It has wall frescoes by Giotto, his mentor Pietro

Cavallini (1259-1344), Simone Martini (1284-1344) and Giovanni Cimabue (c.1240-1302). Giotto's cycle of 28 frescoes on the life of St Francis has just been restored, amid scholarly controversy over which were painted by him and which by Cavallini.

Officials said the Basilica of Santa Maria degli Angeli, in

the plain below Assisi, which was built over St Francis's original hermit's hut, had also been damaged.

The epicentre of the earthquake was near Foligno, 20 miles from Assisi, now a largely modern town. Foligno hospital and the Romanesque cathedral at Bevagna were also badly damaged.

Two friars killed as second shock brings down ceiling

Rescuers are using sniffer dogs and bulldozers to find those buried in the rubble, writes **John Phillips** in Assisi

RESCUE workers used wheelbarrows, miniature bulldozers and spades to find the bodies of the dead as the full horror of the earthquake sank in.

Outside the basilica relatives of a municipal draughtsman trapped inside the church, and feared dead, begged television crews for blocking the path that ambulances were using to take out the dead and injured.

Armed police pushing wheelbarrows and civil protection workers using miniature bulldozers piled heaps of rubble on the lawn in front of the basilica as tourists, monks and nuns watched. Late last night police began using sniff-

er dogs to try to find other people who might be buried under the masonry.

The head of the basilica's restoration team said that he had been among about 30 people who were inside the basilica when the second earthquake struck. Sergio Fusini said that the group was expecting damage and had inspected the building at around 2.40am. He had not expected that there would be a second earthquake.

"When the shock happened we lifted up our heads and saw fragments of the basilica falling on us. We were about thirty people at the time. Some of us began to run and we

were pulling the others along with our hands. The monks who died were behind me. Luckily, I was able to get out of the back exit."

He added: "The earthquake shock lasted a long time — it seemed like almost a minute. As I left the building large chunks were beginning to collapse."

With the group was Associated Press photographer Plinio Lepri. "I was taking pictures of the frescoes when I felt a first tremor," he said. "Maybe five minutes later, there was a stronger one and in that instant it seemed like everything fell around me."

"There was dust every-



where. I couldn't see anything. The rubble was up to my hips. I saw a light in one part of the cathedral. I had to climb over rubble, and kept falling. I was kind of in shock. I went toward the light and managed to get out a window," he said.

adding that he saw two bodies in the rubble near the front entrance.

"It was the worst damage ever to the cathedral since it was built," said Mayor Giorgio Bartolini, covered with dust and his trousers

ripped at the knee.

In a nearby street, nurses brought out weeping elderly women from a rest home. Shops in the area were closed last night. Residents loaded their cars with pillows, bedding and other belongings.

Two hundred people reported damage to their homes. Fontano Bartacci, 57, owner of the hotel Il Palazzo, lost his home. "We're scared. We've been through it before, but this is the worst tremor we ever felt so we're leaving," he said. His family would stay on the outskirts of town in a friend's camper van.

There are conflicting reports about whether the earthquake had caused serious damage to the most important frescoes within the basilica executed by Giotto and Cimabue. First reports quoted the Superin-

tendent of Fine Arts for Umbria, Costantino Centroni, as saying that works by the two had been gravely damaged. However, a German monk, Father Gerhard Ruf, who is responsible for the photographic archive of the basilica, later made a tour of the church to take photographs and said that there were only minor cracks at most to the works by Giotto and Cimabue. He said the main damage was to a fresco, in the transept of the basilica, which has been attributed to Jacopo Torriti among others.

Father Ruf said: "Last night I thought that after the first shock it was all over. But the second shock was really much bigger. Thank God that we decided to close the church to tourists this morning. It was by the grace of God that there

were relatively few people inside the church."

In Assisi yesterday evening many residents decided to spend the night out of doors in parks or in cars parked outside the city.

The damage to the 13th century Basilica coincided with preparations to mark the anniversary of the death of St Francis on October 3 in 1226.

Father Ruf said that the surviving monks would remain in the monastery adjoining the basilica.

The shock waves were felt as far south as Rome where a caste iron chandelier fell from a reception room in the Italian Senate, severely damaging an usher who was walking underneath. Damage was severe also in the Umbrian town of Foligno where the bell tower of the city's cathedral collapsed.

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Burglar who read Who's Who is jailed

Violent antiques thief leaped through the reference work to select judges and peers and planned each raid in great detail, reports Joanna Bale

A SELF-TAUGHT antiques expert who used violence to force his accomplices to burglarise homes whose addresses he got from *Who's Who*, was jailed for 20 years yesterday.

Nick Stock masterminded the theft of antiques worth more than £2 million in 200 raids across two counties. Police say that since his arrest the burglary rate has dropped dramatically.

He travelled hundreds of miles to reconnoitre his target properties, belonging to judges, peers and a vicar. He then cut telephone wires and disconnected burglar alarms before sending in his men.

Stock, 34, was said to know enough about valuables to star on BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*. Sometimes he raided houses when the owners were in bed because he knew people usually did not switch on their burglar alarms while they were at home.

Detective Sergeant Dave McKinney, who headed the police inquiry, said after the case: "He would often reaze a house months in advance. He would never forget a room.

His gang would then return and he was able to tell them exactly what to take and where it was located. He was ruthless and treated the members of his gang terribly, using violence to secure their attendance at the burglary. He has an evil air about him."

The gang would get rid of what they stole immediately, selling it, or hiding it in nearby woods or undergrowth for collection at a later date. Once they smothered stolen property in fox holes to confuse police sniffer dogs. Only a small amount of the stolen property has been recovered.

Detective Constable Dave Johnson said: "The money went straight into Stock's pocket. Those of the gang that weren't afraid of him got their fair share, but there were those who saw nothing."

Stock was caught when one of his accomplices, Colin Marshall, asked for police protection because he feared his boss was planning to kill him. Marshall is now part of the witness protection scheme. A second informant provided further evidence.

Sentencing Stock to one of



Stock: "had an air of evil about him"

the longest terms for burglary in recent years. Judge Michael Brodrick told him: "These burglaries are by a wide margin the most serious I have ever encountered."

Stock, of Fareham, Hampshire, had pleaded guilty at Winchester Crown Court to three burglary conspiracies stretching over five years. He was also sentenced for conspiracy to rob George's Jewellers in Southsea, Hampshire, for which a jury had found him guilty.

Stock's gang of accomplices were also jailed. Stephen Cooledge, 36, of Fareham, was sentenced to 14 years; 9½ years for conspiracy

to rob, one year for the possession of a firearm with intent and 3½ years for conspiracy to burglarise, to run consecutively.

Clay Meader, 22, of the same address, was sentenced to five years for conspiracy to rob and 12 months for conspiracy to burglarise, to run consecutively.

Darren Nicholas, 22, of Crookhorn, Hampshire, was sentenced to nine years for conspiracy to burglarise and 12 months for actual bodily harm, to run consecutively.

Richard Bateman, 32, of Fareham, was sentenced to three years for conspiracy to burglarise. Michael Pearce, 38, of Sarisbury Green, Hampshire, was sentenced to 4½ years for burglary.

Darren Kearns, 27, of Fareham, was sentenced to four years for conspiracy to burglarise. Kevin Wilcox, 26, of Lee-on-Solent was sentenced to three years for burglary.

Dale Saunders, 26, of Fareham, was given a community service order of 200 hours for burglary.

Michael Hanton, 29, of Boscombe, Dorset, was given a suspended sentence of two years for conspiracy to burglarise. Karl West, 27, of Portsmouth, was sentenced to three years for burglary.

James Iles, 21, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, was given an 80-hour community service order for dishonestly assisting the removal of stolen property.



Michael Gottlieb is served by a waiter in a hygiene suit in Café La Futura

Food rules protest is on a plate

By Philip Davies Broughton

RESTAURATEURS have finally had it with the wave of regulations foisted upon them by what they regard as the health nuts and cleanliness freaks of officialdom.

The Restaurant Association of Great Britain is fighting back against the health scares with shock tactics of its own. It has designed a hideous vision of the restaurant of the future, crippled by regulation, to be unveiled at the Labour Party conference in Brighton tomorrow.

Café La Futura is an epicurean's nightmare of what a restaurant could be like in 2020.

Food police prowled the floor, the waiters look like astronauts in their "hygiene suits" and ask diners: "Which menu have you been assigned? Low Risk, High Risk or the Menu for Those Challenged with Personal Obesity?"

One diner is asked to step on the scales before he orders a steak sandwich. Pregnant women are refused alcohol and steak knives are blunted to avoid injury.

Michael Gottlieb, chairman of the association, said that every issue tackled could be traced to a regulation somewhere in Europe or America.

Rush for lottery tickets may mean £28m jackpot

By Carol Midgley, Media Correspondent

A HUGE last-minute surge in sales of National Lottery tickets is expected today, which could push the double rollover jackpot to £28 million. Ticket sales have increased by 20 per cent in the past two days.

Many are expected to choose number 44 because it has been drawn more times than any other since the Lottery began in 1994. It has been picked 43 times in 183 draws and has appeared in the last three draws.

If the jackpot is won by one person he or she will become the biggest single winner to date. The highest jackpot paid out to a single ticket on a rollover was £22,590,829, which was won in June 1995 by Mark Gardiner and Paul Maddison. If there is no winner today, Camelot, the lottery organiser, said that it will produce the first triple

rollover with an estimated jackpot of £50 million.

The double rollover, which is a result of there being no jackpot winners last Wednesday or Saturday, is only the third since the lottery began. In January last year there was a statistically unusual occurrence with two double rollovers in succession. Statisticians predicted that this should happen once in 400 years.

Camelot said that during the last double rollover, sales on the Saturday passed £60 million, peaking at £9 million in one hour in the afternoon.

David Epstein, a mathematics expert at Warwick University, said: "Of the 49 numbers, each has a one-seventh chance of being drawn. There have been 183 draws, which means each number should have been

picked 26 times, but the number 44 has been picked 43 times. It is just one of those patterns that emerges when you have random numbers. But 44 will not be picked 43 times during the next 183 draws. You will see something else you didn't expect."

The absence of winners in the last two draws may have been influenced by the fact that many of the numbers drawn were high. Most people tend to pick lower numbers relating to birthdays or the ages of their children.

If the jackpot is not won, and it rolls over to Wednesday, Camelot said that if there is no winner then, the prize money will be shared among those who picked five winning numbers.

Professor Epstein said that the more people who buy tickets, the greater the likelihood of a winner.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES

BRYSON'S
NEW BOOK

Katz nodded thoughtfully, then fixed me with a sudden fearful look. You know what I look for in a female these days? A heartbeat and a full set of limbs. And that's just my starting point, you understand. I'm prepared to compromise on limbs...

Bill Bryson treks through the Appalachians with an old schoolfriend. Exclusive extracts from his hilarious new book start tomorrow

Freed paedophile will strike again, detectives warn

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

A PAEDOPHILE convicted of killing 14-year-old Jason Swift was in hiding last night after warnings from detectives that he has been freed to strike again. Robert Oliver, now 42, was released after serving eight years of a 15-year sentence for the manslaughter of Jason in 1985.

He is not subject to any supervision or recall because he was convicted before new regulations were introduced allowing checks to be kept on prisoners freed early.

Three other men, including Oliver's lover, are still in prison for the crime.

Yesterday a Home Office official said Oliver, who has changed his name to Oliver Lee, will have to put his address on the new sex offenders' register.

He will also have to give any change of name as well as his original name. A friend who met him at a rendezvous near

Wandsworth Prison after his release said Oliver would register.

But the Home Office said that if Oliver had only been convicted of murder or manslaughter he would not have been required to.

The offences covered by the Act were strictly limited and there is no separate offence of child murder or manslaughter. Oliver was also convicted of conspiracy to commit burglary, which brought him on to the register.

Yesterday police officers involved in the arrest of Oliver said they fear that the register will not prevent him from re-offending. One detective who tracked Oliver down said: "His main interest in life was abusing children and there is little chance of him being cured of it. He would represent a very serious menace."

Ex-detective Roger Stoodley, who led the four-year hunt for

Jason's murderers, said: "I think almost certainly he will re-offend. It is all he has done most of his life."

Oliver was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1989 after being convicted with three others of killing Jason during a homosexual orgy in an east London flat.

One member of the gang, Leslie Bailey, was also convicted of killing Barry Lewis, six, from south London, and Mark Tildesley, seven, from a Berkshire fairground. Bailey was later found strangled in his cell at Whitemoor prison in Cambridgeshire.

Oliver had already been jailed for five years in 1977 for procuring three boys for acts of gross indecency and an indecent assault on a boy aged 16.

Co-defendant Sidney Cooke, 66, is freed next April. They have said they will live together after a form of wedding.



Toyah Willcox, who has submitted more than 20 planning applications

Actress's plan for folly is thwarted

By HELEN RUMBELOW

VILLAGERS have blocked an attempt by Toyah Willcox, the actress, and her husband Robert Fripp, the rock musician, to build an "overpowering" ornate folly at their 18th-century mansion.

Miss Willcox moved into Reddish House, a Grade II listed building in Wiltshire, in the early 1980s, and has made more than 20 planning applications. Her proposal for ornamental gates and a pavilion was rejected by Salisbury District Council after protests from local people.

Planning officers had recommended that the application be accepted but, after Broadchalke Parish Council unanimously objected, the planning committee refused permission, David Parker, its chairman said.

David Gilbert, vice-chairman of the parish council, said: "We just feel it is a never-ending saga."

Soldiers in Cyprus brawl case go free

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN LARNACA

THREE of the five British soldiers accused of assaulting a group of English tourists in Cyprus walked free yesterday after the prosecution accepted they could not have been involved.

The prosecution is now also considering whether to postpone indefinitely the separate trial of another soldier on the same charges because of the high costs involved.

There is now the prospect of just one soldier remaining in the dock even though the court has already heard from several witnesses that eight off-duty soldiers were involved in the fight. The Army has never disputed this.

The incident outside a nightclub early last month highlighted the Army's apparent difficulty in maintaining discipline among off-duty soldiers on the island. Three Royal Greenjackets are serving life for sexually assaulting and battering to death the Danish tour guide, Louise Jensen.

In the present case one tourist, Shane Bell, 23, had his jaw broken in three places and another, Barry Ford, needed 22 stitches to his face and head after he was beaten senseless. His girlfriend, Claire Har-

bour, 22, a nursery school nurse, suffered a badly bruised wrist.

They were appalled by yesterday's developments which signalled the virtual collapse of the overall prosecution case.

The prosecution decided to withdraw assault charges against three of the accused as it became clear they had been mistakenly picked out of a police identity parade.

Even a witness for the prosecution provided alibis for the trio, testifying last month that he was with two of them in a hamburger bar at the time of the fight.

Legal sources said it was most unlikely anyone else would now be charged since the main witnesses had already failed to correctly identify three of the defendants.

The three soldiers to be cleared are Steven Wolstencroft, 26, from the Manchester area, Steven Girvan, from Manchester, and Tim Carter, from Liverpool, both 20.

The prosecution is considering whether to postpone indefinitely the trial of Stewart Spencer. He is to appear in court again next Tuesday with a fifth defendant, Roger Bell.



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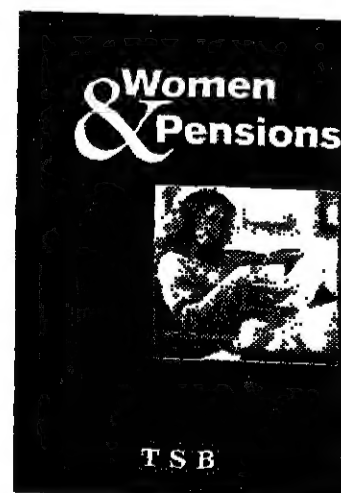
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1555 1000

Britons race against time in Nevada desert to go supersonic

Thrust powers to a world-beating 714mph in the Black Rock sands. The next stop is Mach 1, writes Giles Whittell

WITH a formidable new land speed record under their belts and a smoothly-running 700 mph car, the Thrust SSC team plans to continue its bid to break the sound barrier on land with test runs resuming as early as today.

Craig Breedlove, the American, was expected to re-enter the high-speed duel in Nevada's Black Rock Desert yesterday, but only with "engineering runs" at up to 500 mph. Meanwhile, Andy Green, the Thrust SSC driver, and the small army of technicians who maintain his twin-jet car took yesterday off after an afternoon signing autographs and an evening of celebration. By that time, congratulatory messages had been received from the Queen and 10 Downing Street.

Today, weather permitting, the team will return to its meticulous schedule of gradual acceleration towards the speed of sound. Richard Noble, the team's leader, has vowed to "get the job done" by cramming as many runs as necessary into whatever time remains before autumn rains.

He faces mounting debts on his return to England, since each run costs an estimated \$33,000 (£20,000) and he lacks an overall corporate sponsor — a fact that angered him even as champagne flowed.

"We've got people in borrowed cars and sleeping on borrowed mattresses," he said. "The corporate sponsors haven't come forward so far, and I don't expect them to."

Squadron Leader Green may already have come closer to the sound barrier than expected. Speaking after his record-breaking runs at an average speed of 714mph on Thursday, he said he could feel trans-sonic shock waves forming on the car and had detected subtle handling dif-

ferences. His father Tony Green, 72, said yesterday he and his wife, Betty, had turned down an offer to watch the attempt. "We thought about going but we decided that Mum and Dad radiating nervousness would not do at all."

"He rang us afterwards and was bubbling over, euphoric. We know it is dangerous but it is what he wants to do and he is happy."

Thursday's second run at 728mph may have been at Mach 0.93 rather than the intended Mach 0.92 because of a following wind of 15mph. Ron Ayers, the project's aerodynamicist said.

Despite the presence of shock waves, the possibility of Thrust SSC losing its vaunted stability and becoming airborne as it passes through them remains remote, the team believes, since sensors indicate that the car's downforce on the track has remained constant.

"There were so many critics who said what we were trying to do was impossible, so there's an intellectual satisfaction in having got this far," added Mr Ayers, a former chief aerodynamicist at British Aerospace. He added, however, that "we're in a region of aerodynamics that changes very rapidly indeed".

Mr Ayers likened an assault on the sound barrier to "climbing a vertical mountain — every handhold and foothold must be checked". This approach makes a serious attempt on Mach 1 unlikely for the next few days.

The pursuit of the world land speed record began in France in 1898. The Briton, Malcolm Campbell, captured the record in 1924 in his Sunbeam Bluebird, travelling at 141mph.

Dunkirk spirit, page 22



From London to Paris in less than 16 minutes

TRAFFIC permitting, Thrust SSC could put a severe dent in world travel times (Adrian Lee writes). At its average speed of 714mph, journeys are impressively swift:

- London to Birmingham (118 miles): 9 minutes, 54 seconds.
- Land's End to John o'Groat's (870): 73 mins, 6 secs.
- London to Paris (343): 15 mins, 43 secs.
- London to Istanbul (1,560): 131 mins.
- London to New York (2,980): 251 mins, 11 secs
- London to Edinburgh (395): 33 mins, 12 secs
- London to Rome (907): 76 mins, 12 secs
- London to Coningsby (Andy Green's RAF base, in Lincolnshire) (136): 11 mins, 24 secs
- Around the M25 (117): 9 mins, 48 secs.

Computers test the safety limits

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR



THE designers of Thrust SSC are relying on computer modelling and a rocket-driven test of a scale model to ensure that it can exceed the speed of sound safely.

Nobody has ever done it before. In aircraft the shockwaves that build up close to the speed of sound can be dispersed in all directions, but on land there is a risk that by bouncing off the ground they could disturb the attitude of the car.

If that happened, it could fly up in the air or bury itself in the desert. Ron Ayers, the team's aerodynamicist, insisted on computer simulations using a Cray supercomputer

before he was convinced that it could be done. The simulation was reassuring, but showed that, close to the speed of sound, forces tend to become volatile. "The problem is the forces and pressures acting on the car are constantly changing and so it sets new problems for the design of the car," Mr Ayers said.

To confirm the simulations, a model of Thrust was propelled on a sledge by a rocket motor at speeds of up to 820mph. This showed the levels of forces expected to act on Thrust.

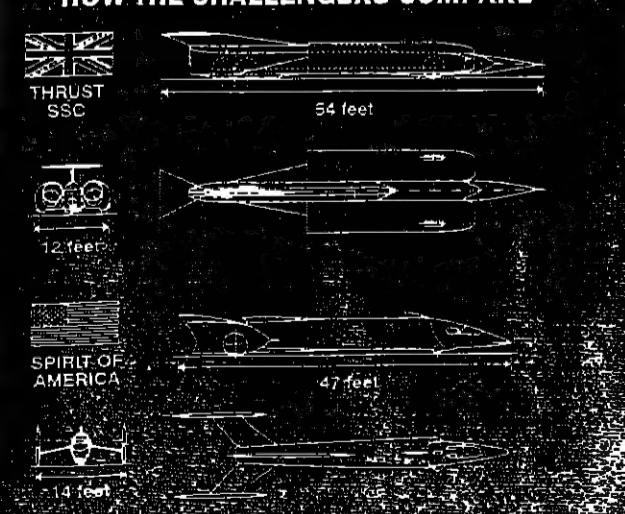
To ensure that any out-of-balance forces can neither flip the car upwards nor drive it downwards, the designers fitted Thrust with an active

suspension system on the rear wheels which can be triggered by out-of-balance forces in a split second to alter the attitude of the car. If the forces tend to drive Thrust upwards, the suspension will move to increase downforce and prevent the car taking off.

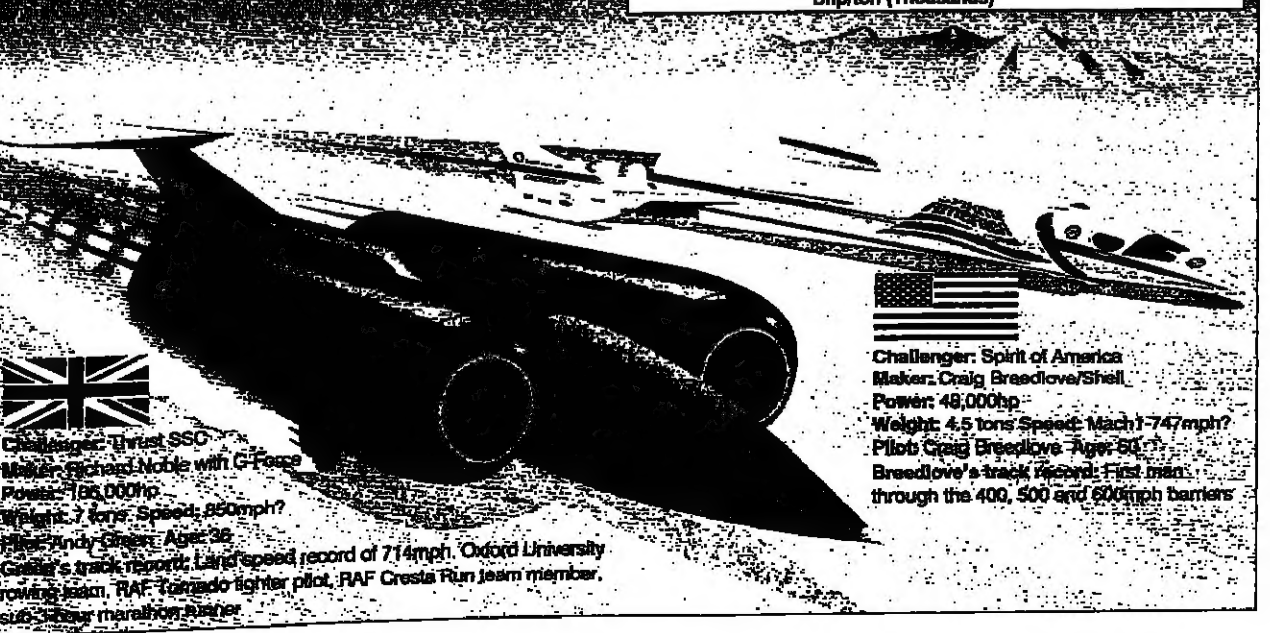
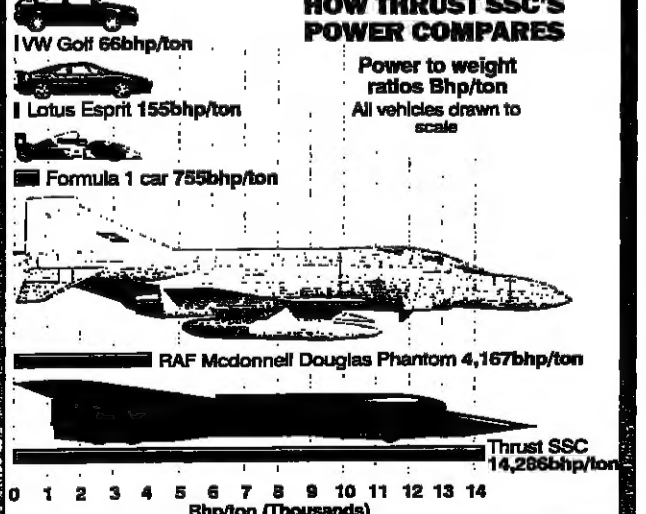
The turbulence does not all hit the car at the same moment. Because air is flowing over it at different speeds, depending on the curvature of the body at that point, there is a large region in which airflows are a mixture of subsonic and supersonic.

Andy Green, who is piloting Thrust, is already well into this region, and has reported evidence of it from his 700mph runs. The speed of sound is around 750mph.

HOW THE CHALLENGERS COMPARE



HOW THRUST SSC'S POWER COMPARES



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Dover - Calais

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Saudis enraged by tabloids' attack on Islam

THE West appears determined to demonise the beliefs and practices of Islam, and this is causing enormous resentment in Saudi Arabia, the Saudi Ambassador to London said yesterday. He did not mind criticism of his country, he said, but he resented the way that the British press had denounced the whole concept of Islamic justice.

In an attempt to defuse the political fallout, he said no one in his Government had taken offence at the remarks by Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, that the sentence on one of the nurses was unacceptable; he was merely defending British interests.

"I have no problem with anyone criticising Saudi Arabia," Dr Ghazi al-Gosaibi said. "But I have a lot of problems with people insulting Islam, because Islam is a divine revelation. And a lot of the things that were said — I hope in the heat of the moment — were offensive not just to Saudi Arabia but to many Muslims."

The ambassador is at the centre of the urgent diplomatic



The Saudi Ambassador tells Michael Binyon he resents a billion Muslims' religion being insulted over the nurses

attempts to ensure that neither of the two women is flogged or beheaded. From the start of the case, he has been in constant touch with Andrew Green, the British Ambassador in Riyadh, with the Foreign Office and with the senior members of the House of Saud who, under Saudi law, have the final word on clemency.

One of his country's leading intellectuals — with degrees from the Universities of London, Cairo and Southern California — Dr al-Gosaibi is uniquely placed to understand the Western mind and to interpret what he admits is still a conservative, secret and deeply religious society.

Yesterday, relaxed and affable, he told *The Times* that he was convinced the case would be resolved without damage to Anglo-Saudi trade, political

alliances or good relations. And he repeated his insistence that the death penalty would not be enforced.

He did not hide his worries that screaming tabloid headlines were making things more difficult. Indiscriminate use of the words "primitive" or "barbaric" were deeply offensive, he said. There were about a billion Muslims in the world. Not every one took the Koran literally; but the vast majority did, and the teachings on sin and on capital punishment were explicit.

"Some religions chose to water down their teaching and have it just as a private belief. Others did not, and take it as the literal word of God."

"I was hoping, while this debate is going on, that it would be kept in the confines of consular limits. This is a case of two British subjects accused of a crime in Saudi Arabia, and justice will take its course through due process. It happens here to Saudis. It happens to all citizens living abroad. We should be very careful not to insult the sensitivities of other people."

Mr Cook, he insisted, had not done that: he had a job to do to defend British interests, and that is what he had done. "I don't find anything offensive in what he said."

Dr al-Gosaibi, a former minister and political scientist who has published 40 books, saw dangers of a self-fulfilling clash of cultures. He cited telling examples of Western hypocrisy and failings. He ranged across the torrent of argument over "fundamentalist" Islam and political extremism. But he returned to what he called dispassionate objective analysis. "Some Saudis may say, 'Why did God destroy Sodom and Gomorrah and save Paris and London?' If we start exchanging this kind of 'dialogue', we



Dr al-Gosaibi yesterday: "Saudi Arabia is a secret society. That does not mean that judges are not meticulous"

would really be in great trouble."

To criticism that the trial was not open nor the evidence published, he noted wryly that virtually nothing was conducted in public in the desert kingdom. People did not speak about their wives or their illnesses. "This is a secret society." But that did not mean that the judges were not

meticulous in examining the evidence. They were trained to take an adversarial approach to the police, not simply to accept police evidence or confessions. Otherwise, evidence could be fabricated and there would be no justice. Saudis were satisfied their system served them well.

He admitted that procedures were evolving, as Saudi

society became more complicated. A generation ago a judge might deliver 20 judgments as he walked from his house to the mosque. Now there were three-man courts, five-member appeal courts, a supreme council and review by the King.

He foresaw more open proceedings — but not under pressure from the West. "If we start catering to every legal whim we could end up with something ridiculous."

He denied that the tough sentence was an attempt to show dissident headline opinion that Westerners were not treated any differently; any sensitive murder case was automatically reviewed, with appeals for clemency.

And, as he noted with the dry wit that darts between all his arguments, "our judges do not read the tabloids". Dr al-Gosaibi had only sympathy

for the dilemma of Frank Gifford, the dead nurse's brother. "He has been hounded and subjected to daily harassment. I really pray that he should be given some space to think it over."

He was modest about his own role, winning at the "unfortunate" fact that news of the case came out as he was hosting Saudi national day, with warriors wielding their swords in traditional display in the opulently refurbished embassy. He noted that "diplomats tread carefully, where others rush in." But "all our jobs are about damage limitation".

And on that, he was optimistic. There was no crisis in Anglo-Saudi relations; trade would not be affected; justice would be done to the nurses.

Simon Jenkins, page 22
Letters, page 23

NEWS IN BRIEF

Asylum seekers' amnesty refused

The Government has rejected calls for an amnesty for asylum seekers to cut the backlog of 50,000 applicants waiting to settle in Britain.

Amnesty International had accused the Government of not doing enough to tackle outstanding cases. Mike O'Brien, the Home Office Minister for Immigration, said the Government was committed to reducing the backlog but said there would be no "desperate measures". He told *Radio 4's Today* that a blanket amnesty would encourage abuse of the system.

Boy killed

An eight-year-old boy died after falling from a horse chestnut tree that he had climbed to gather conkers near his home in Wigan. Marc Abbott hit his head on the pavement and died in hospital.

Blast memorial

A memorial was unveiled in Dublin to 33 people who died in bombings in the city and the Irish border town of Monaghan on one night in 1974. The bombs were blamed on loyalist terrorists.

Glider death

A woman died after her motorised glider crashed and burst into flames. The incident happened shortly after take-off from North Weald airfield, Essex. The woman, aged 55, died at the scene.

Bodies charge

A sculptor and another man appeared before Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court accused of stealing body parts from the Royal College of Surgeons. They were bailed to December 11.

Ferry arrests

Police in Hull arrested 12 Dutch passengers on board a ferry after fights broke out during the journey from Rotterdam. One man was detained in Hull Royal Infirmary with facial injuries.

Piped aboard

Three pipes — 375 gallons — of top quality port, ordered by Admiral Nelson shortly before he left for the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805, were sold for £3,200 at Aylsham, Norfolk, yesterday.

Riyadh signs UN ban on cruelty

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AS THE sentence of 500 lashes was pronounced on the British nurse Lucille McLauchlan, Saudi Arabia was quietly joining a United Nations convention outlawing "cruel, inhuman or degrading" punishment.

The UN reported on Wednesday that it had acceded to the *Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1984 and in force three years later.

Human rights experts say McLauchlan's sentence, and the possible beheading of Deborah Parry, would violate the convention, although Saudi Arabia usually enters a

reservation requiring that no UN treaty provision contravenes Islamic law.

"Our view is that lashing as it is applied in Saudi Arabia does constitute torture, not simply cruel and unusual punishment, because it is so harsh and does draw blood and inflict pain," Clarissa Bencomo, a researcher for Human Rights Watch in New York, said.

The group has asked King Fahd not to ratify the sentences and to investigate the trial procedure.

The convention establishes the UN Committee Against Torture, which can receive complaints from signatory states about breaches by other treaty members.

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And they're buying a Steinway to heaven



A piano decorated by Queen Victoria's cabinet makers and inscribed with the signatures of famous composers should fetch £800,000, writes Dalya Alberge

A STEINWAY admired by the composer Sir Arthur Sullivan and said to be the most artistic piano ever produced is expected to fetch £800,000 at auction.

The 1885 neo-classical masterpiece holds the record price for any piano sold. It was decorated by two leading 19th-century artists and the furniture makers to Queen Victoria.

Leading musicians of the day, as well as society figures, attended glittering soirées: some, including Sir Arthur and Richard Rodgers, the composer of *The Sound of Music*, left their signatures on the inside of the piano lid.

Henry Marquand, the American philanthropist, collector and founding president of the Metropolitan Museum

of Art in New York, commissioned Sir Lawrence Alma-Tadema to direct its decoration. Alma-Tadema, one of the most fashionable artists of the period, was given a "limitless budget" to decorate the music room of Marquand's Madison Avenue mansion.

The design features spectacularly ornate inlay in mother-of-pearl, coral and ivory with classical motifs and figures such as the muses, Apollo and Bacchus. Laurel sprigs, tendrils of Roman acanthus, beaded mouldings and a Grecian lyre are also represented.

Above its keyboard is an exquisitely delicate panel, by Sir Edward Poynter, fashioned as a tablet of an ancient festival. Poynter once de-

scribed the instrument as "the most beautiful piece of work, both for the design and the workmanship, that I ever saw... in fact, I do not believe that anything has ever been done to equal it".

Christie's, which will sell it on November 7, describe it as "a masterpiece of 19th-century neo-classicism... the most 'artistic' piano ever produced".

It took Queen Victoria's cabinet makers and upholsterers, Messrs Johnstone, Norman & Co, four years to embellish the Steinway: they displayed it in 1885 in their Bond Street showroom and the Prince and Princess of Wales were the first to see it. Even the colour scheme picked up on Grecian vases. Long since the Madison Ave-

nue building was demolished, a painting the muses of sacred and epic poetry created by Frederic Leighton for the ceiling has been lost and other objects have been dispersed around the world: the Victoria & Albert Museum has a pair of chairs.

The piano, positioned under it, is inlaid with ribboned wreaths bearing the Grecian names of Apollo and the Muses of artistic inspiration. Elaborately carved legs with eagle-winged lions were sacred to Apollo and were inspired by a Pompeian marble table. Greek vases are scattered around the room.

The record price fetched in 1980 was £177,272. The private collector later lent it to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts from 1986 to 1995.



The neo-classical decoration of the piano took four years to complete; the carved legs with eagle-winged lions were inspired by a Pompeian marble table

Flag found by Scott was relic of rival expedition

A WHITE Ensign found by Captain Scott on a beach in Antarctica in 1902 sold for £28,750 at Christie's in London yesterday (John Vincent writes).

The flag, picked up by Robert Falcon Scott during his first expedition, in *Discovery*, had been expected to fetch no more than £5,000. It was a relic of Carsten Borchgrevink's British Antarctic Expedition of 1898-99, the first expedition ever to winter on the inhospitable Antarctic mainland.

Borchgrevink and nine explorers were landed by the Southern Cross in February 1899. One man died in October and the ship returned in late January 1900 to collect the survivors.

Scott and his men were the next visitors. In January 1902, the *Discovery*'s second surgeon, Edward Wilson, noted: "The litter around the huts was very interesting and the waste excessive. The huts looked like the centre of a rubbish heap."

In the same sale, a Union Jack that accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his last expedition fetched £14,950. The flag was presented to him by George V in September 1921, only months before the explorer's death on January 5, 1922. The King gave the flag to Shackleton before he set out in the *Quest* on his fourth expedition to the Antarctic.

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When life at the top is just not enough

Alexandra Frean on why career women quit their jobs for family

PROFESSIONAL women in their forties and fifties are leaving high-powered careers and "downshifting" in a quest for greater satisfaction.

Contrary to the popular perception that the careers of businesswomen take off once they achieve mid-life maturity and their children leave home, new research from Cambridge University shows that this is precisely the time when many decide to step off the career ladder, start their own companies or work part time.

Ambitious women in their twenties and thirties are willing to make personal sacrifices in order to achieve career advancement, believing that once they have reached a certain level of promotion, and once their children are older, the pressures of home and career will diminish and they will find it easier to cope with the stresses of holding down a high-powered job in male-dominated environments.

But according to Dr Terri Apter, a social psychologist and fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge, many women, particularly those working in predominantly male professions, simply find that the pressure never eases off, even after two decades.

"When they reach secure positions at the age of 40 and 45, they look back and realise that the trophies of their professional advancement have been achieved at too high a price. They decide they want more personal fulfilment from life," she said.

The findings come after the decision of Brenda Barnes, 43, to quit her job as chief executive of PepsiCo's huge successful North American arm to spend more time with her children. She spent 22 years working her way up the corporate ladder.

Dr Apter's research, which was presented at the Pennell Initiative conference on women's health organised by the University of Manchester and held in London yesterday, identifies four types of women — traditionalists, innovators, expansive women and protesters — who experience these changes in different ways.

Dr Apter, who based her research on interviews with 80 British and American women, believes that the exodus of middle-aged women from professional life is due to psychological and sociological factors and cannot just be accounted for by the fact that many undergo mood changes when they reach the menopause.

"This is not a case of women dropping out because they can't hack it. It is about women deciding to make choices for themselves. In mid-life many become determined to make a new start — some set up their own companies, others cut back their hours or switch to new jobs," she said.

Her findings could have far-reaching implications for businesses as they compete in a changing commercial world. Companies are beginning to realise that they will not be able to sustain a varied and valued pool of experienced and highly qualified senior managers if top women continue to leave before they have achieved their full potential.

Val Hammond, chief executive of the Roffey Park management institute in Hove, West Sussex, said although successful professional men and women reassessed their lives in their forties, the experiences of women were often more complex.

"A lot of women say, 'Well I'm never going to get to the very top, so continuing here seems meaningless.' It is a great loss to companies," she said.

Ms Hammond noted that even where women were offered the very top job in a company, they were more likely than men to turn it down. "Being offered the job is often enough for women because it proves that they could do it and that's all they need," she said.

Campaigners for women's equality are equally concerned that companies will never achieve the critical mass of senior female employees that is needed to change work cultures if the exodus of female bosses continues.

Shiela Diplock, director of the Fawcett Society, which campaigns for women's equality, said: "Rather than fight to change the culture, women on the whole are saying, 'This is too much like hard work. It's more pleasurable to go off and make a different life.'"

Claire Walmsley, managing director of Boxclever, a communications training company, is typical of the professional women leaving high-powered jobs in big companies to set up on their own.

Ms Walmsley, 52, left the BBC to set up her company in 1990. "It is easy to get demoralised within a large organisation," she said. "You have to fight your corner all the time, rather than just get on with the job. I felt that my talents were not being used properly at the BBC. Now they are and I am much happier."

Two faces of Cherie, page 19



The trophies of women's professional advancement are achieved at too high a price, says Dr Terri Apter

FOUR TYPES OF WOMEN AND THEIR ATTITUDES TO WORK

Traditionalists: identify themselves primarily as wives and mothers and believe that their family's needs take priority. Today they often feel marginalised, outmoded, under-powered and obscured by high-profile images of career women.

Innovators: deliberately set out to be new career women, pioneers in a man's world. Many have children but work hard to change the patterns of marriage and maternity.

Expansive women: feel that they lived the first decades of adulthood in a narrow corridor, blocked through lack of confidence and confined by lack of skill or education or self-awareness.

Protesters: try to make up for lost ground after being constrained by responsibilities in early adulthood, such as being a teenage mother, looking after sick parents.

Most stick with their careers throughout the most pressured domestic times, but at midlife their career progress often stalls.

As husbands get promoted and children leave home, they scale down their professional commitments so that they can work in a less pressured environment.

Dr Apter's research was based on in-depth interviews with 80 women in the US and the UK aged between 40 and 55. They were interviewed four times between 1990 and 1994 and again in 1997.

They see midlife as an opportunity to expand their horizons and set new goals. Some go back to school, or to work, or to qualify for new types of work.

Dr Apter's research was based on in-depth interviews with 80 women in the US and the UK aged between 40 and 55. They were interviewed four times between 1990 and 1994 and again in 1997.

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Why single life does not begin at fifty

IT MAY have been a tough week for Edwina Currie, the former Tory MP turned novelist turned single 50-something, but the message from Britain's main groups for divorced men and women is that she should get used to it.

Life for women who divorce over the age of 45, they say, can be very tough, even for those cushioned — like Mrs Currie — by wealth.

When she announced on Monday that she was separating from Ray, her husband of 25 years, Mrs Currie was instantly accused of timing her announcement to coincide with the start of a publicity campaign for her latest book, *She's Leaving Home*.

Mrs Currie may, however, end up looking back on this period, when her face is in the papers and her mobile telephone ringing off the hook, with something like affection.

According to divorce counsellors, the majority of women who separate from their husbands at 50 find their lives lonelier and much harder to rebuild than those who divorce at a younger age.

Figures from the Office for National Statistics for 1995 show that, whereas 18.6 women in every 1,000 divorce between the ages of 35 and 44, only five in every 1,000 divorce after the age of 45.

Catherine Lee, a counsellor for Dignity, an organisation for men and women who find themselves cheated on or divorced, says: "The classic model for trouble in married couples over 45 is for the man to run off with a younger woman when he hits middle age and needs reassurance that he is still attractive."

"For a woman to separate from her husband at that age is much rarer and they are consequently lonelier."

"It is not so much adultery

Breaking up is so very hard to do.

Philip Delves

Broughton finds

the older you are

the tougher it is

that provokes women to separate as when their husband's behaviour at home becomes unbearable."

After 45, it seems, the threshold for "unbearable" moves much higher — making divorce less likely.

Julia Cole, a spokeswoman for Relate, Britain's biggest divorce counselling service, says: "In cases of separation over 45, there is more likely than not someone else involved. It may not be the cause of the separation but will very often be a symptom."

Sheila Diplock, the director of the Fawcett Foundation, which campaigns for equality between men and women, says that one reason successful women of a certain generation end up separating is that their husbands find their success hard to take.

"For men over a certain age, when they come home they want to talk about their work. They have no interest in listening to their wife talking about her work. They start to put her down and, in time, communication between a couple falls apart."

Gillian Gee, 57, separated from her diplomat husband ten years ago. She now works for Oxford but in the wake of her divorce found both work and social life difficult.

"For some reason, divorced or widowed men are always being set up by their female friends with potential new partners. Separated women over 50 become like widows and the invitations dry up."

One woman who works with Mrs Currie says: "Edwina is happier now. Leaving her husband is about her settling down. She has moved on from being an MP and is cutting all kinds of strings and setting up as a single woman living alone in London."

It is a fine picture: Edwina Currie as the post-menopausal Bridget Jones.

Edwina Currie is "setting up as a single woman"

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Rabbi says inequality threatens Jewish future

By Helen Rumbelow

A RABBI has given warning of the demise of Anglo-Jewry if its Orthodox wing does not compromise what she says are its sexist ways.

Rabbi Jacqueline Tabick, whose status is not accepted by the Orthodox, encountered prejudice both comic and sinister. In an address to the Anglo-Jewish Association on Wednesday, Rabbi Tabick risked reopening the rift between Orthodox and Progressive Jewry that followed the death last year of the renowned Reform Jewish leader, Rabbi Hugo Gryn.

Some members of the congregation at the West London Synagogue, where Rabbi Tabick has applied to succeed Dr Gryn as senior rabbi, believe that mixed feelings surrounding her application

are the result of prejudice. Rabbi Tabick, an associate rabbi at the synagogue and acting leader, is competing with five men for leadership of the country's biggest Reform synagogue.

Dr Richard Stone, a member of the rabbinic appointments committee, said the synagogue had drawn up a shortlist of six candidates, including Rabbi Tabick. "The prospect that the senior rabbi of the largest synagogue in Britain could be a woman awakens a lot of issues people have about equality," he said.

"There are a whole lot of things that need to be balanced."

Rabbi Tabick said: "The Torah is written by men for men in such a way as to contain the power of women," she said, "which strikes us as

very unfair." Referring to the difficulties encountered by "chained women" — wives who cannot obtain a get (a divorce in Jewish law), Rabbi Tabick said: "It's dreadful that we have to go to English law to solve the problem of inequality in Jewish law."

Some young women in the audience disagreed with Dr Tabick, arguing that being too open would lead to the end of Judaism.

"I understand being scared of freedom," Rabbi Tabick countered, "but to be part of the world you have to grow up, just like Adam and Eve."

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Cycling to work from Richmond – via Hell



Cycling nervously: our man in the saddle

IT HAS not been a good week for pedal power. Anthony Adams, 24, was fined under a 150-year-old law for cycling "furiously" through Cambridge and suddenly the urban cycling community is in the spotlight.

People who ride their bicycles through towns are passionate about cycling. So are many of those who have to share the road with them, for rather different reasons. In the wake of the case of Mr Adams (who may go to jail if he continues to exercise in such a fashion), the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents warned that careless cycling was likely to become of increasing concern if efforts to cut the number of cars on the road resulted in more cyclists. The cycling lobby, meanwhile, wants more bicycles on the road.

Just how uneasy is the relationship between pedalers and other

Damian Whitworth discovers the untold perils of riding furiously on the highway

road users becomes clear on getting into the saddle. From where I live in Richmond, southwest London, to the Times office in Wapping, East London, is about 12 miles. It is hard to imagine a more unpleasant experience than making the journey on a bicycle, which I did for the first time this week. The ride, which took two hours, was so miserable that my bicycle is still in the office, waiting until I can face the prospect of making the return trip.

The first three minutes of spinning across Richmond Green were blissful. The pleasure ended on the A316. I stopped and pulled off the road at some traffic lights to adjust my helmet. A policeman drew up on his motorbike, we exchanged pleasantries and I made a quip about my ordeal ahead. "I've seen

more than my fair share of bikes and people parting company with horrible results," he said grimly. "All sides are to blame. Sometimes cars, pedestrians, cyclists. But sadly the roads are just not made for the traffic and the most vulnerable get hit. Cyclists are the most vulnerable."

Cheering stuff. My route took me through the old, winding streets of Barnes where the traffic crawled bumper to bumper and there was barely room to stay on the road. This was after the rush hour but, not for the last time, I hopped off onto the pavement. "You know you shouldn't be on the pavement," remonstrated one woman who was wheeling her baby son in his pushchair. I dismounted, chastened. "You know I was nearly hit

by a kid on a bike the other day. He came out of the line at traffic lights and cut over the crossing, clipped the pushchair." Hers was the politest reprimand I had all day.

By the time I crossed Putney Bridge I had been cut up several times by buses, lorries and taxis and was going at a cautious speed that was probably putting me in even greater danger. Zipping onto Cheyne Walk I clipped the wing mirror of a black, open-topped BMW. The owner was not understanding. "You ****! You shouldn't be on the road, people like you, **** cyclists!"

I replied in similar vernacular but, as a moped rider in front of me crunched into the bumper of a car, I secretly felt the man in the BMW was right: it was madness.

Particularly mad were the duo on racing bikes, clad in pink lycra, who overtook me as I was pulling around a parked car. The cycling lobby make great play of the lunacies of motorists but some cyclists – in their own minds competing with Chris Boardman – can be equally unthinking. The worst of the fanatical cyclists are often the macho cycle couriers. One raced past me on the approach to Vauxhall Bridge in a manner that could only be described as "furious".

Heading south of the river over Westminster Bridge in search of a quieter route I came across the opposite extreme. An outlandishly dressed trio on huge tricycles towing trailers wobbled ahead so slowly it was difficult, bringing up

the rear, not to fall off. The riverside path along the south bank of the Thames provided little relief. No more cars, instead pedestrians and in particular joggers who weaved all over the place and then had the temerity to issue curses because I didn't look where they were going for them. Three, clearly very junior, city wideboys were even more unpleasant. My red helmet apparently qualified me for being a total ****.

By the time I arrived at the Southwark headquarters of the London Cycling Campaign I was not only late, saddle-sore, dripping with sweat and with a face and shirt collar smudged with grime, but convinced that anyone who regularly cycles in central London must be insane, or at very least a few spokes short of a wheel.

Saddle up, page 45

Salvation Army goes to war over rags riches

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

OXFAM and the Salvation Army are at war over sites for clothes recycling banks.

The Salvation Army is furious after being told that it will have to hand over 77 of its locations around Devon to the Third World charity.

Devon County Council asked the Salvation Army to move its recycling bins from the sites after Oxfam offered ten times more money when they were put out to tender.

The Salvation Army has accused Oxfam of "poaching", and says the move will lead to a major drop in its income from Devon, into which it pumps around £2.75million every year from national funds. It fears owners of private sites on which it also has clothes banks, such as supermarkets, may also come under pressure to take Oxfam banks instead of theirs.

Devon County Council district recycling committee has agreed a three-year contract with Oxfam at 77 sites, mainly at district council-operated car parks, in the first deal of its kind under the competitive tendering process.

Oxfam is believed to have agreed a £101 per ton fee for the contract, in stark contrast with the £8 per ton previously paid by the Salvation Army.

Salvation Army recycling co-ordinator Garth Ward has accused Oxfam of poaching sites which had been running successfully for six years in

Devon. He has written to all councillors in the county asking them to prevent his charity from being ordered off council-owned land.

He said money raised by the recycling banks helps fund facilities such as the Salvation Army hostel for the homeless in Devonport, Plymouth, which has recently undergone a £1 million refurbishment. "We initiated this recycling idea in 1991, and we helped the Department of the Environment conduct feasibility studies into the whole clothing recycling idea. I think most people think we have offered an exemplary service."

"I really think that most people see us as the natural choice for this type of operation. We are domestic and not global – although we do send clothes abroad. To me it would make more sense for us to work together rather than poaching our sites."

But Oxfam spokeswoman Anne Bissell denied the charity was poaching. "Everyone was invited to tender for the 77 sites and we were successful," she said.

Councillor Marguerite Shapland, chairman of the joint recycling committee, said: "The Salvation Army, with whom we have had an informal agreement for a number of years, was invited to tender for this contract and I understand its disappointment."



The farm at North Sea Camp Prison near Boston, Lincolnshire, was commended by the Inspectorate in its report on prison industries

Treasury rules 'hold back jail industries'

JAIL workshops and farms should be freed from archaic Treasury rules and regulations that hold back attempts to generate income, the Chief Inspector of Prisons said yesterday.

Sir David Ramsbotham said prison industries should be allowed to run as profit-making enterprises rather than paying back any income they earn into central funds. He said that at Ford Open Prison in West

Sussex, which has workshops making products from security gates to demonstration dummies for the Fire Service, work opportunities had been lost because of the rules.

Allowing a more entrepreneurial approach would encourage prison governors and staff to develop more imaginative work opportunities and do much to alleviate unemployment in prisons.

THE TIMES/DILLONS FORUM

An evening with Stephen Fry

STEPHEN Fry, whose public face is internationally well known, reveals his private face in this Times/Dillons forum, on Tuesday October 7. He will be in conversation with Nicholas Waplington. The discussion will cover his days at boarding school, the beatings he suffered, the love he felt, the misery he suffered, his time in prison and his subsequent highly successful career. The forum, which marks the publication of his autobiography, *Moab is my Washpot* (Hutchinson, £16.99) will be held at the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1, at 7.30pm. Tickets are £10 (concessions £7.50), which includes £2 off the price of the book. There will also be an opportunity for the audience to ask questions. Subject to demand this event will be interpreted in sign language.

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The people of North Korea are in desperate need. The Red Cross is organising emergency supplies of food to vulnerable groups and medical equipment to the failing health sector.

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Katiza's Journey



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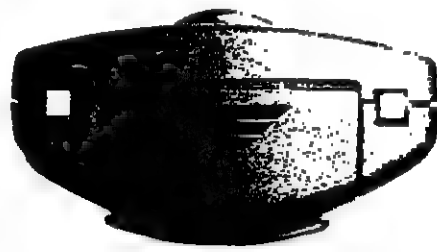
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Green architect wins approval for a bridge of trees



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**Alan Hamilton on
a novel proposal by
Piers Gough, left,
to perk up a park**

If there is one colour that predominates in the work of the architect Piers Gough, it's green. Two years ago he produced a revolutionary design for a public lavatory in Westbourne Grove, Notting Hill, West London. In green glazed brick, it incorporated a florist's kiosk. What was once an unlovely necessity became an admired item of street furniture.

Now Gough has been given the green light - and £12 million of Millennium Commission lottery money - to build a green bridge. It will be a key element in the revitalisation of Mile End Park, a 90-acre lung

created in 1947 to give breathing space to half a million residents of the East End of London.

Tower Hamlets Council has given planning permission for the bold and novel green bridge, to be built of steel, earth and trees, which will at last unite the northern and southern halves of the park, until now separated by the five lanes of the busy Mile End Road.

"The idea is that the park wins out over the road, and that its two halves are seamlessly united: you will have the sense of the park crossing the road, and if you are driving

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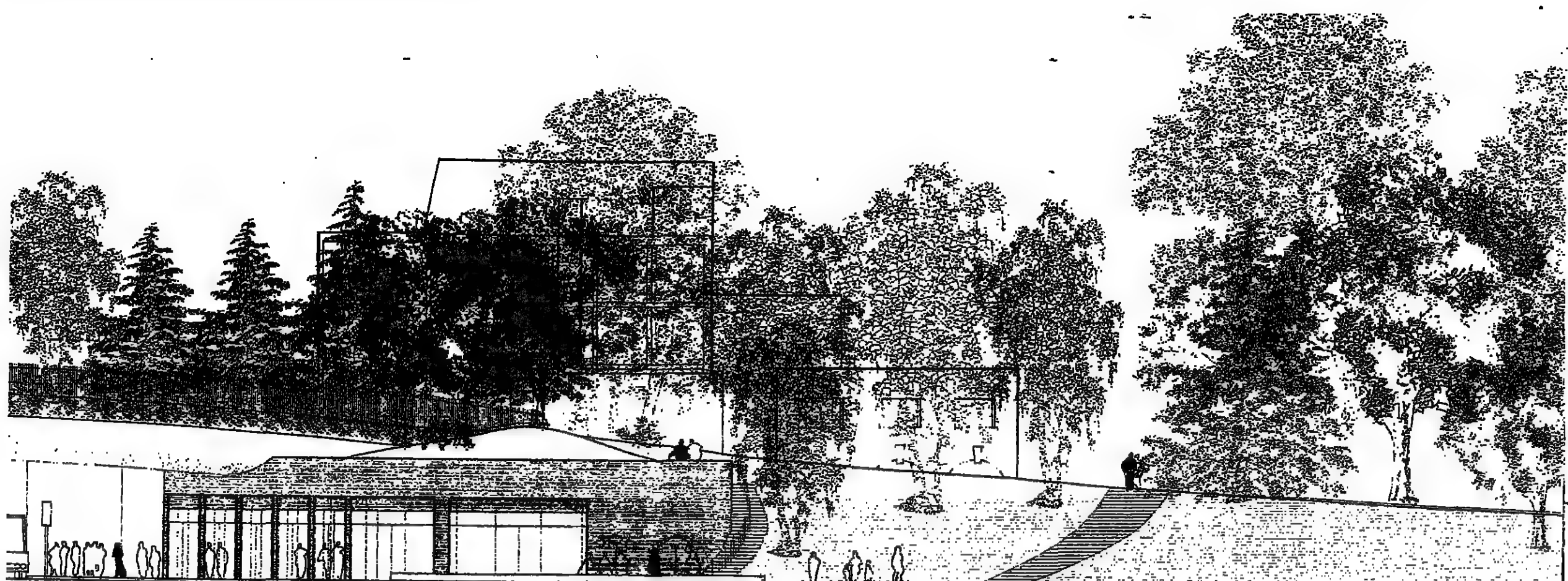
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to breathe life back into 90-acre lung in the capital



An artist's impression of how Mile End Park will look, top. The structure will unite the north side of Mile End Park, above left, and its south side.

you will go under a whole line of trees growing out of the bridge," Gough said yesterday. Under the bridge there are plans to install shops and cafes.

The architect, who lives locally, is mildly surprised to have got away with it. "There is a great fear of all developers in London; people will oppose almost anything. It's a British trait: 'We don't like the future; we are against it and we are against development,'" Gough said.

Not everyone is happy, of course, and the unhappiest of all is Guardian Angels Roman Catholic primary school, which fears it will be engulfed by the bridge right alongside its 100-year-old premises. John Holland, the school governor who has led objections to the bridge, said: "The school will be isolated from the rest of the park. Our only entrance, causing worry for the safety of more than 300 pupils and staff, and with a 7m bridge abutment right alongside us we will be in permanent shadow: psychological if not

actual." The school also fears that the bridge, like many other urban bridges, will become a magnet for drunks, drug-takers and others particularly undesirable outside a school gate.

Other parts of the scheme have been more widely welcomed. Mile End Park runs alongside the last stretch of the Grand Union canal on its way to the Thames at Limehouse Basin, and is a prime site for recreation. But a park can no longer be just a park; it has to be an outdoor leisure centre. In matters of use in urban, man must control nature.

The £24 million being lavished on the park will pay for, among other amenities, a man-made mountain to provide views of the city, a running track, art pavilion and an amphitheatre. The bridge should be completed time for Tower Hamlets's Hogmanay party in the park to welcome the new millennium, and will doubtless shelter those too wobbly and green to make it home afterwards.

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US finds Fat Ladies hard to swallow

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA has greeted the rival of *Two Fat Ladies* with a polite, nervous smile of meane offered an unidentifiable, pungent forkful of a reign cuisine.

While some have hailed the but of Jennifer Paterson and arissa Dickson Wright on ble television's Food Net- art, as the birth of two new It stars, others have reacted if a wormy apple has been rried into Eden.

That is partly because the io, in their tour of the big- ne talk shows, have por- yed themselves as mission- ies of flavour, accusing merican prudishness of tak- g the taste out of food and e fun out of meals.

On the question of food, at

least, the Two Fat Ladies have a point. Outside the main cities and ethnic restaurants, American food can be as- toundingly bland despite the bounty of ingredients avail- able. Unflavoured by pepper, garlic or wine — and increas- ingly, ungraced by salt or butter — it is often downed with a glass of milk.

In some quarters the Fat Ladies have won firm fans. The *Boston Globe* gave the "unlikely cult figures" a rave review. The programme "is an Anglophile's delight, with lots of beautiful scenery, quaint atmosphere, and Paterson and Wright speaking in the posh- est of British accents", al- though it says the pair are "not what you'd call genteel". In Canada, the *Toronto Star* dubbed the show "weird and wacky", adding: "Seriously, folks, these gals can cook".

They have one trend in their favour: vastly overweight people are now so common in America that fat has become acceptable. But inevitably the pair have grated on the nerves of the health-obsessed part of America. The *Wall Street Journal* reported with appar- ent horror that "Ms Paterson, who shares her partner's birth, hosts part of the half- hour show with a cigarette hanging from her mouth".

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Vision, page 13



Paterson: her smoking on camera horrifies



A drawing from *The Cat in the Hat*, by Dr Seuss

Fruity English tastes the best

THERE is no escape from them. Their faces are every- where, and their accents, too. Plummy-voiced, London de- motic, rasping Glaswegian, gritty Lancashire, singsong Welsh, even the odd Ulster- man sounding like John Cole.

British journalists have never been in heavier demand as television "talking heads". My telephone rings at least

thrice a day, with requests from Fox, NBC, ABC, CBS — in fact, from every bit of the TV alphabet soup except, alas, MTV — to talk about Princess Diana (still), devolu- tion, and now, floggings for nurses in Saudi Arabia.

I have resisted their bland- ishments so far. But my more dashing colleagues, more silver-tongued than I,

have this last month built handsome second careers. The American viewer, it seems, is likely to take a British voice more seriously than any other sort. I asked a chum in broadcasting why that is. "We call it news through the marmalade fil- ter," he replied. "Your ac- cents just seem to taste so much better."

Characters cast for word-play wizard

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S NEW YORK



garden, to be completed by 1999, will cost \$6 million (£3.7 million) and the sculptures will be made by Lark Grey Dimond-Cates, his step-daughter. Dr Seuss never had children, once saying famously to an audience of parents: "You make 'em, I amuse 'em."

The sculptress says: "I want people to leave the memorial taking Dr Seuss's work a little more seriously. I think a lot of people take Dr Seuss lightly."



Geisel: cult following

A WEE snippet from my spies at the United Nations. Robin Cook, who did not endear himself to journalists in New York by snapping at those who asked him awkward questions, seems to have spent most of his time at the General Assembly working on his speech for next week's Labour Party conference.

The Foreign Secretary's labours, however, were interrupted rudely by news from Saudi Arabia. A source said: "The whole thing was jolly inconvenient. All Mr Cook really wanted to do was to polish his oration for Brighton. And then this damned nurse business happened at just the wrong time."

Mr Cook is normally even-tempered, but these interrup- tions made him rather crabby. I think you might say he is rather nervous about his speech.



Liberty: big let-down

Feel free to forgo Liberty

GIVE me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, and I shall make them feel infinitely worse.

This, in effect, is the message put about by the Statue of Liberty today, now surely the grottiest tourist site in New York. Visitors to the verdigris-complexioned lady are packed into grimy boats in Manhattan and then shipped to Liberty Island.

There, they sometimes have to wait for up to three hours just to reach the en- trance. They are harassed constantly by vendors, commercial photographers and pushy superintendents.

There are few lavatories, so 22 flights of stairs (and back) must often be negotiated with a fullish bladder.

The signs are misleading and people get lost. And once on top, on the statue's crown, they get barely a minute's glimpse of New York before they are hustled back down again. I now give visitors some simple advice: don't go to the Statue of Liberty. Have a few martinis instead, and then look at the postcard.

Winnie Mandela to give open evidence at truth commission

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Madikizela-Man- dela yesterday won the right to testify in public at South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission to try to clear her name. She has been implicated there in 18 cases of rights abuses, including eight mur- ders, by amnesty applicants.

Mrs Mandela, 63, yester- day, appeared before the commission for the first time in secret hearings throughout the day. She was questioned about allegations made by amnesty applicants that she ordered assaults, kidnappings and murders during a town- ship reign of terror in the 1980s.

The hearings had been held in camera to protect other witnesses, who say they fear for their lives after agreeing to give evidence allegedly dam- aging to the former wife of President Mandela. She is the most senior official of the African National Congress (ANC) to appear before the commission, hearing amnesty applications for apartheid-era crimes.

But when she takes the stand publicly on November 1, she may cause panic among senior ANC members already rocked by allegations that they connived in covering up her part in the killing of Stompie Seipei in 1987 and other human rights abuses. The open hearing could not come at a worse time for the

ANC: its party congress is in mid-December and Mrs Mandela has been nominated for the deputy presidency. One of her accusers, Jerry Richardson, was convicted of the murder in 1991 and re- ceived a life term. Mrs Mandela was acquitted but convicted of kidnapping and the assault of four youths. She was fined £1,500 on appeal.

Dumisa Ntsebeza, who heads investigations for the commission, said: "She is here because we believe she is able to assist the commission in elucidating some or all of the issues found in the subpoena."

Leading article, page 23

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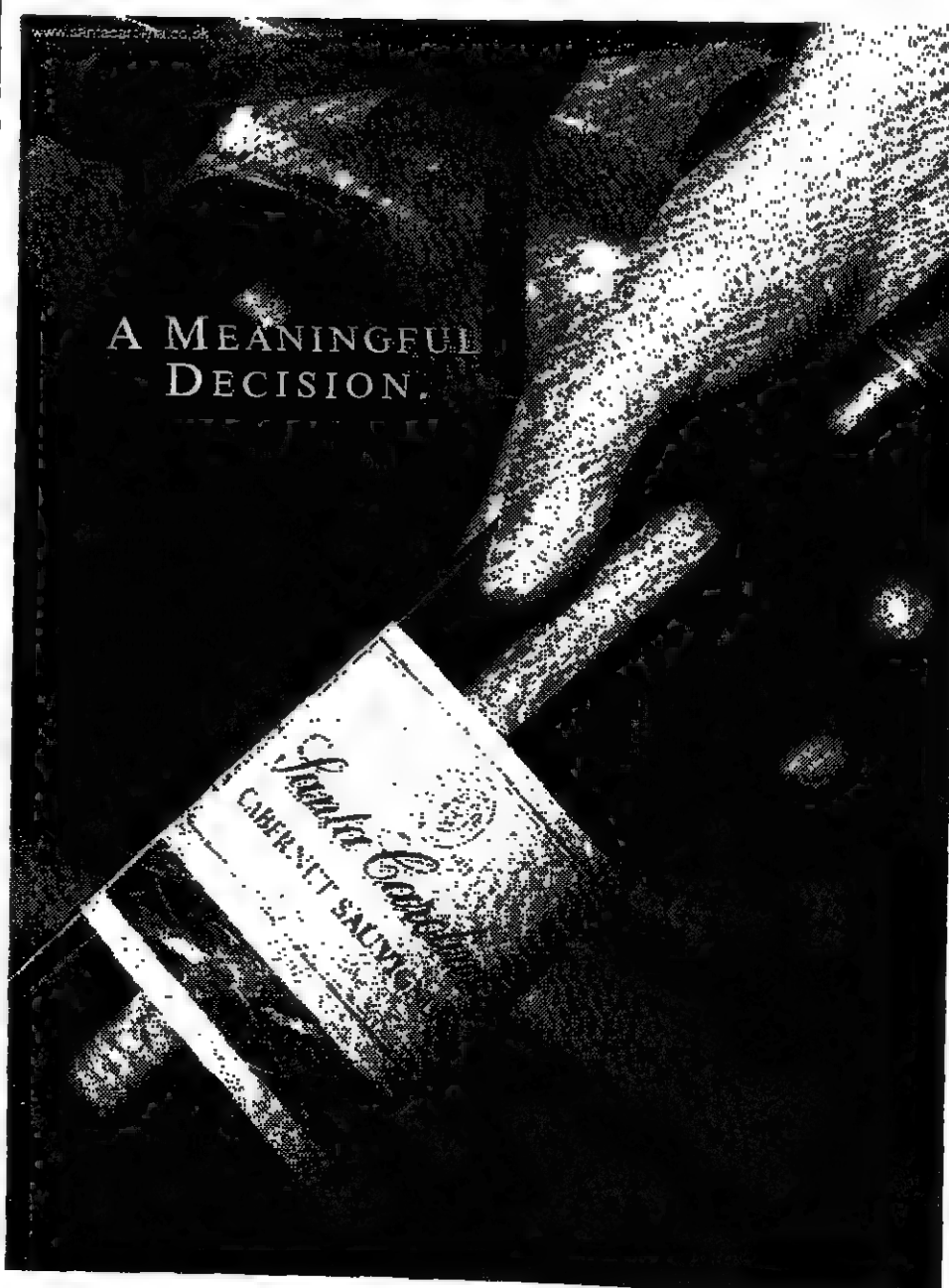
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Guess who's coming to Labour's victory party...



Brighton bound: from football, Trevor Brooking and Glenn Hoddle; the theatre, Jude Kelly; the music business, Alan McGee; from publishing, Eileen Wise and Terry Mansfield; from PR, Matthew Freud

A celebration for all but a rough ride for a few

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

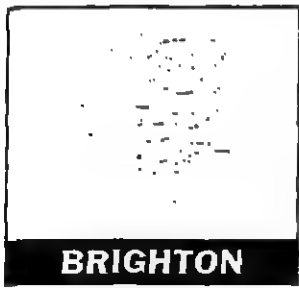
DAVID BLUNKETT and Harriet Harman face a rough ride when Labour meets as the governing party for the first time in 19 years at Brighton next week.

Although the mood will be celebratory after the victory of May 1, and although Tony Blair, John Prescott and others will be allowed to bask in their triumph, Labour's activists are expected to flex their muscles, most notably in the debates on education and health.

Conference planners expect Mr Blunkett to face tough questioning on Wednesday over the Government's decision in July to introduce tuition fees for university students, and Ms Harman on the same day may face criticism over Gordon Brown's decision to go ahead with Tory cuts in lone parent benefit.

In recent months Labour strategists have suggested that Mr Blair's greatest difficulties could come over his latest batch of party reforms, the shake-up of the national executive and the changes to the way the conference debates issues.

But after initial opposition from the unions the leadership compromised over its right to table motions for emergency debates, a concession that seems likely to get the latest "modernising" proposals through. Modernisation of



BRIGHTON

Britain and the party is expected to be one of the central themes of Mr Blair's speech to the conference on Tuesday, when he is expected to set his sights not only on the end of the present Parliament but also of the next. The need for Labour to have at least two terms — and to maintain its discipline — will be a constant theme.

Mr Prescott will open proceedings on Monday with his "general election report" — an unashamed excuse to remind his audience of the glory of May 1 and the part played in it by Mr Blair. But it will straight down to business with the reforming "partnership into power" document up for discussion on the first morning, with Mr Brown opening the economic debate in the afternoon.

The first day may have one final twist: if the runes have been read correctly, Peter Mandelson will be elected to the National Executive Com-

mittee. The idea of Labour activists putting Mr Mandelson on to the committee would have been unthinkable not long ago. But it is believed they are ready to show some gratitude for his part in winning the election and promoting the cause of Mr Blair in earlier years.

His main opponent for the vacancy is Ken Livingstone. A Mandelson defeat would provide the press with one of its best stories of the week — which is why it probably will not happen.

On Tuesday morning during the debate on the health service ministers will take the opportunity to warn the party that a "long, hard slog" lies ahead before the Government can restore the National Health Service to the state it would like. Frank Dobson will deliver the message but the hand of Mr Brown, and his firm insistence that the previous Government's spending limits be adhered to, will be behind it.

The rest of the day will belong to Mr Blair. The Prime Minister has spent much of the past week working on his speech and will chart Labour's path for the next five years. He is assured of a hero's reception.

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Letters, page 23
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What a difference an election makes. Next week's Labour Party conference, once the annual gathering of the far-left and trade union barons, has become the most in demand social and political gathering of the year. A record 15,000 delegates, compared with 10,000 last year, will throng Labour's first conference since 1978 as the party of government.

There are some unlikely guests at the East. Glenn Hoddle, the England soccer coach, not asked for his Labour leanings, will make an appearance with Trevor Brooking, the footballer-turned-commentator, to lend support to Britain's bid to stage the World Cup in 2006.

Satchi & Satchi, the advertising agency which helped propel Margaret Thatcher to three successive

Andrew Pierce admires the shining guest list and concludes that the conference is the only party in town

victories will be represented at a Labour conference for the first time.

Society photographers will have a field day. One of the most sought after party invitations is the one being hosted by National Magazines on Thursday — the first time the company has thrown a bash at a Labour conference. Editors of titles such as *Harpers & Queen*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Esquire* and *Good Housekeeping* will host the champagne affair with Terry Mansfield, the company's managing director.

The party was the idea of Eileen Wise, the company's head of communications, who was a key figure

in the Tory Party election machine at the election. "There are now more than 100 women MPs. We thought it was an ideal time to meet them," she said.

Matthew Freud, the public relations guru whose clients include Pepsi and Mars, will be entertaining tomorrow night. Lennox and Hugh Laurie will provide the cabaret.

Captains of industry will be represented in force. Richard Branson's Virgin Travel has taken an exhibition stand. The Life, Europe's biggest futures and options market, is also making its debut at a Labour conference — sponsoring a

Fabian Society reception with Peter Mandelson. Representatives of private health companies, more at ease with Conservative policies, will be working alongside the trade unions.

The luvvie factor will be stronger than ever. Jude Kelly, the artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse theatre, tipped as a future head of the National Theatre, will be speaking.

So will Alan McGee, the founder of Creation Records, who discovered the Peter Dinklage of the music industry after delivering one of the most carefully planned publicity campaigns for the band's latest album, *Be Here Now*, which sold 350,000 copies in 12 hours. Five years ago Mr McGee, like the Labour Party, was on the verge of financial ruin.

Benn's attack gives warning that Left will not hold its tongue

By Nicholas Watt and James Landale

TONY BENN yesterday accused the Prime Minister of attempting to dismantle the Labour Party.

In a clear sign that left-wingers were ready to confront the leadership at the party conference, the veteran MP dismissed new Labour and said that the Establishment had always yearned for the party to abandon socialism.

Mr Benn believes that the leadership's *Partnership into Power* document, on which the conference will vote, would tighten Mr Blair's grip on the party. The Prime Minister's supporters say the proposals would give local activists a greater say.

In an interview with *Labour Left* Briefing, Mr Benn said: "This is not the end of the Labour Party but the attempt to use it as a foundation for something new. You can't separate yourself from your roots. It's like a tree deciding to cut its roots and just grow upwards. The tree will collapse, as we saw with the SDP."

Labour was yesterday given the green light to press ahead with its inquiry in Glasgow after Alex Mosson, deputy Lord Provost, failed in his court bid to get his suspension lifted. Mr Mosson, 57, was one of nine Glasgow councillors suspended by the party this week amid serious allegations, including that they traded political favours for trips abroad and broke party rules.

Mr Benn said that he would not leave the Labour Party. "If people leave they are contributing to the process of handing it over to new Labour. If left-wing MPs left the party it would delight the leadership."

Mr Blair will tomorrow face his first public confrontation with union members since taking office. Hundreds of rebel branches of Unison, Britain's largest public-service union, are to defy their leadership with a protest against the Government outside the conference hall in Brighton. They will be joined by other unions.

and organisers expect more than 5,000 people to attend.

The protesters will demand greater pay rises for teachers and healthworkers, an end to tuition fees for students, scrapping of the Private Finance Initiative, higher taxes to pay for better public services, and the defence of Labour's links with the unions.

The march, organised by the Unison branch at University College Hospital, London, has been condemned by Rodney Bickerstaffe, the general secretary. In a letter to members, he said: "The lobby will only detract from the efforts being made by Unison, in the Labour Party and elsewhere, to pursue union policies such as opposition to the Private Finance Initiative."

Candy Unwin, Unison secretary at University College Hospital, said: "We are telling Blair's Government that we expected change when we voted them in, not more of the same. The honeymoon is well and truly over. How can big pay rises for ministers even be on the agenda when low-paid nurses and teachers are told their wages will be held down?"

Salmond delivers foretaste of conflicts with Labour

By Shirley English

ALEX SALMOND, leader of the Scottish Nationalists, yesterday attacked new Labour as the party of "New Let-Downs".

Addressing 1,000 delegates at the SNP conference at Rothsay, on the Isle of Bute, he said Tony Blair's party was little more than "the Tories in designer labels" and added: "A Scottish parliament must and will cut its cloth according to its own fashion."

Giving a foretaste of future conflicts, following a brief truce between the parties during the referendum campaign, Mr Salmond criticised the "rightward drift" of Lab-

our and claimed that it had "assimilated the creed of Thatcherism".

That creed, he claimed, now barred the younger generation from free higher education and forced the "generation that fought for freedom" into selling their homes to pass the means test for residential care. "How can anyone trust Cabinet members who benefited from free education yet now deny it to a new generation?" he said.

Referring to Labour's recent problems with sleaze in Glasgow, Mr Salmond said that a Scottish parliament elected by proportional repre-

sentation would "sweep away the cynical culture of civic corruption".

Paraphrasing a song by The Proclaimers, Mr Salmond said: "Let me say to the people of Scotland, Monkslands no more, Glasgow no more, Paisley no more. No more Labour one-party states in Scotland. Now it is time for democracy to force the issue."

However, Mr Salmond expressed his belief that the parties should work together where possible and renewed his call for co-operation in building the "people's parliament".

Strategy failures lost Tories 80 seats

By Nicholas Wood

WEAK organisation cost the Tories about 80 seats at the general election, the Shadow Cabinet will be told next week. The findings come from research undertaken by ICM, the Conservatives' pollster. They will be presented to William Hague and his team at a two-day pre-conference, strategy session.

The results will strengthen Mr Hague's hand in his efforts to convince his party and his parliamentary colleagues that the Tory machine must be radically overhauled if the Conservatives are to present a serious challenge to Labour at the next election.

They amount to the first hard evidence that the Conservatives paid a heavy price for allowing their grassroots support to wither during their 13 years in power.

ICM compared the level of contact with voters — either in person or by telephone — established by the two main parties in 12 marginal seats. It found that the anti-Tory swing was much lower in seats where the Conservatives were at least as good as Labour in tracking down voters.

Overall, 41 per cent of the swing could be explained by differences in contact rates, the pollsters say. This means that the Conservatives could have reduced the national swing to Labour from 10 per cent to 6 per cent if they had matched their opponents on the ground, according to the research. A 6 per cent swing would have limited the Labour majority to 25 — compared with the 179 achieved on polling day. It would also have given the Tories about 250 seats, compared with the 165 they actually secured.

Mr Hague has promised greater internal democracy and a centralised system of collecting and recording membership details as part of his proposals to reinvigorate the moribund party machine. According to the Internal Central Office post-mortem, the Tories were rejected because they lost their reputation for sound economic management after Black Wednesday and because they were seen as sleazy, divided and arrogant. But the ICM research shows that organisational factors were almost as important as political ones.

One senior Tory official said: "This is not a comment on our members — they slugged their guts out as usual — but on the fact that we lost so many activists during our 13 years in government."



Hague findings strengthen his hand



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The two faces of Cherie

Mrs Blair and Ms Booth share the roles of mother, barrister, First Lady and charity worker. Michael Gove separates woman and superwoman

Since the election, Tony Blair's wife has had to be two people at once. Cherie Booth the QC and Cherie Blair, First Lady to an increasingly presidential Prime Minister. Over the past seven days she has been swapping personas, from Booth to Blair, as often as the models at London Fashion Week have switched outfits.

Last Sunday she became godmother to the youngest child of her Islington friends Stephen and Felicity Mustyn-Williams, spending most of the afternoon at the christening. On Monday, Mrs Blair launched a breast cancer campaign from No 10. The following day, Ms Booth was in the headlines for calling on the Bar to be less elitist, while Wednesday saw her winning a case for a woman with dyslexia. Yesterday Mrs Blair presented a Grandparent of the Year award. And today Ms Booth is chairing the annual Bar conference. From tomorrow, however, Cherie Booth becomes Mrs Tony Blair for the whole week — at the Labour Party conference in Brighton. An intelligent and articulate woman will be turned into a mute and adoring wife. The conference is one of the worst weeks of the year for her. A woman who lives on her eloquence and charms with her wit must observe a convent silence. Commentators, denied the chance to discuss her views, instead dissect her clothes, her hairstyle, her make-up — and, most of all, her body language, which some interpret as pained. It cannot be easy.

"Party conference is not number one in her list of favourite occupations," a friend says. "But she just puts on a different hat and smiles and gets on with it. She's a great get-on-er."

Since the election, that is precisely what Ms Booth has had to do. There were those who doubted her ability to continue at the Bar after Labour won power. They feared for her safety, they worried about conflicts of interest. Some simply disapproved of a Prime Minister's wife having a career. To prove them wrong, she has just got on with it, ploughing through attendant reporters and photographers to argue her case.

But although she keeps her arguments for court her continuing career has become a statement in itself. A poll of sixth-form girls put her top of their list of "superwomen" role models. It is a term much abused, but for this successful barrister the wig may fit.

The balancing act, however, is never easy. Within 24 hours of May 1, while Mr Blair was dispensing great offices of state, Cherie was learning to cope with living above the office. It was more than just another upheaval. Managing the move from Islington, with the family's taste in furnishings under scrutiny, was hardly the ideal way to wind down after six weeks of electioneering.

Downing Street is not exactly a cosy family home. The flat above No 11 is big enough but still fairly institutional. The move has not been without its political complications. Wrangles over rooms with next-door neighbour Gordon Brown have, according to insiders, strained relations between Mr Blair's wife and his Chancellor. But Chequers, the Prime Minister's country retreat, is a sanctuary for the family, where they can properly relax. Weekends are cherished, for while maintaining a private life was hard enough in Opposition, it has proved almost impossible in Government.

Privacy is something that the Blairs have come to value. The Prime Minister is protective of his wife: both are ferociously protective of their three children. Cherie, herself the daughter of a famous father (the actor Tony Booth) knows the dangers of growing up in the flashgun's glare.

They try to lead as much of a family life as possible in the circumstances. The Prime Minister aims to go upstairs from his office at about 7pm to see the children. Cherie is often not back until later. In the mornings, the Prime Minister can no longer drop off the children at the Tube as he used

to, so Cherie pays for them to be driven to school. Relatives and a nanny help to share the childcare burden. As well as continuing her legal practice, Cherie has managed to fit in charity work, engagements with her husband and responsibility for the running of the household. Friends joke that she is as likely to pull a packet of pasta out of her briefcase as an affidavit. One says: "She's unflappable — that's her real strength. She has enormous stamina." Steely robustness was demonstrated by her return to the courtroom just days after her daughter was delivered by Caesarean section.

Being the wife of the Prime Minister calls for psychological as well as physical stamina. You cannot open your door to a delivery man in a night-dress. You cannot go to the supermarket without being photographed and having your choice of chunky knit analysed. Worst of all, you cannot assert your intelligence without people assuming that you want to run the country. Or already do. Those determined to make Mrs Blair the Modernisers' Messalina have tried to suggest she is a home-grown Hillary Clinton. But however justified stateside suspicions may be about who really wears the chinos in the White House, the parallels do not hold.

Both Hillary and Cherie are lawyers with progressive husbands who like soft rock. But then so are half the women in Islington and many of the wives in Washington. The similarities between the two end there. When Bill Clinton ran for office, he boasted that voters would get "two for the price of one". He allowed his wife to help to choose his Government and he then put her in it, with responsibility for reforming healthcare. It was a disaster and one the Blairs have no intention of repeating.

Cherie did once have political ambitions of her own and stood unsuccessfully for Thanet North in 1983. But she and her husband had a pact: if one got into Parliament, the other would stay at the Bar to support the family. Once he won Sedgefield, she diverged from active politics and returned to law. She has



Party duties at the last Labour conference: for a week each year, the highly articulate lawyer is turned into a mute wife

is talking about the law. But, if she were to give other interviews, her words would run the risk of being distorted and she would lose any right she still has not to be treated as a public figure.

However uncontentious the issues she embraces, there is always the danger that she will make a "gaffe" that will remain on the cuttings files for ever. For a woman who rose by eloquence and intelligence

an obvious move after years as a senior barrister. The trouble is that legal terms are fixed, and judges have to be available for sittings all term. They cannot plead for time off to attend a G7 economic summit or to fit in some devolution campaigning.

Even if the Lord Chancellor were to make an exception, that could give rise to charges of nepotism. The man who would appoint Cherie to such a position and give her time off is her old pupil-master, her husband's mentor and the couple's close friend, Lord Irvine of Lairg.

Her current legal practice is somewhat more flexible. Most of her cases are pre-planned and she can, on the whole, work them around her husband's diary. There was concern initially that some of her clients would be deterred by the publicity she attracted, but she is still in demand. Her main problem has been the manner in which critics have wilfully misunderstood the Bar's "cab-rank" principle. Barristers have to accept whatever case they are offered. Ms Booth had to endure criticism from the Left when she acted against poll-tax defaulters and sniping from the Right when she represented a lesbian litigant in Brussels. In both cases she was acting as counsel must, a professional advocate for the arguments, irrespective of personal feeling.

For an intelligent woman, however, there are ironies in her position. When she had political ambitions, they must surely have been to be First Lord of the Treasury, not First Lady. Academically and at the Bar, she has achieved everything possible: four "A" grades at A level, top First in her year, top of her Bar exams, and appointed one of the country's youngest QCs at her first attempt.

Yet still she is outshone by her husband. As she once remarked, "I started life as the daughter of someone. Now I am the wife of someone."

If she were almost anyone else's wife, she might be the star of the couple. It is a tribute to her that she has handled her position with poise. At the end of a week in which commentators such as Francis Fukuyama have marshalled formidable arguments questioning whether women can have it all, Cherie Booth is an example to all those who believe that they should at least be allowed to try.



The hardworking QC in her chambers



Celebrating with a successful client



As the patron of Breast Cancer Care



The acceptable public role: a charity event last week

no wish to be the Prime Minister's back-seat driver. Nonetheless, political enemies are waiting for the opportunity to paint her as a Lady Macbeth. Advisers have tried to forestall that danger with a series of "softening" exercises. But in order not to appear threatening she runs the danger of "dumbing down". Guest-editing *Prima* magazine, knitting patterns and all before the election provoked ridicule as much as respect.

Charity work on behalf of breast cancer patients or hartered women is acceptable. So

it has become dangerous to demonstrate too much evidence of either.

In court, on the other hand, she is in her element. As a barrister, she prefers cool reason to verbal pyrotechnics. When she occasionally sits on the bench, as an assistant recorder, observers say she deploys a sympathetic manner, taking care to put witnesses at ease.

Because of her duties as Mrs Blair, though, Cherie may find that her next step on the legal ladder is barred to her. She had an ambition to be a judge.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

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Fugitive killer held in France



From left, Holly Maddux, whose body was found in Einhorn's flat in 1977; Einhorn with a Philadelphia sheriff's deputy during his 1979 trial; Annika Flodin, his Swedish wife; and Einhorn is led into a Bordeaux appeals court this week



Ben Macintyre unfolds the saga of an American hippie-era guru who is fighting extradition

In Einhorn, celebrated former hippie guru and convicted murderer, was returned to a Bordeaux jail cell this week as French and US lawyers wrangled over whether he should be sent back to Philadelphia to serve a life sentence after 16 years as a fugitive in Britain, Ireland, Scandinavia and France.

Since his arrest, the man who emerged in the 1960s as a leader of the drug-saturated counter-culture has entered an unreal legal limbo. Washington has formally demanded his extradition, but under French law anyone tried in absentia has the right to a retrial. Rarely has such a retrial been granted in America.

On Wednesday, the Bordeaux court of appeals that has pondered the case for the past three months postponed its decision and requested more information from the United States. Sitting in court, the bearded Einhorn, 57, who has successfully evaded American justice for so long, smiled broadly.

Last June a lucky break led the FBI to a converted mill in Champagne-Mouton in the Charente and the discovery of the real identity of Eugene Mallon, self-styled English novelist and member of the local bridge club.

Thirty years ago Einhorn was one of the most prominent and weirdest figures in the growing hippie movement. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Einhorn experimented with LSD in the 1950s, opposed the Vietnam War and briefly taught English literature at Harvard, soon attracting a mass following with his charisma and love of publicity.

Einhorn called himself "planetary enzyme" and wowed his acolytes with theories about "psychic weaponry", the paranormal, ecology and CIA conspiracies. In 1972 Einhorn began a stormy relationship with Holly Maddux, 25, a mildly unbalanced Texan hippie. Late in 1977 Maddux disappeared. Eighteen months later Einhorn's neighbours in Philadelphia reported a stench. On March 28, 1979, police raided his flat and found the woman's decomposing body locked in a trunk.

Einhorn was arrested, claiming to be the victim of a CIA plot. His admirers rallied round and lawyers had no difficulty raising the \$40,000

(£25,000) bail. Two days before his murder trial was due to start, Einhorn slipped out of Philadelphia.

Using false names, Einhorn headed first to London and then to Dublin, where he joined the poetic circle round Seamus Heaney at Trinity College. In 1987 the great Irish poet reportedly told police he had known Einhorn, then calling himself Ben Moore. Before the Irish police could pounce, Einhorn had moved on again: back to England, to the Balearic Islands, Switzerland and back to London. It was in London in 1987 that Einhorn met Annika Flodin, a Swedish fashion designer 11 years his junior. They settled briefly in Stockholm.

Back in Philadelphia a district attorney, Richard Di Benedetto, was slowly picking up Einhorn's trail. In 1988 the Swedish police closed in on Flodin's apartment, only to find it empty. In 1992, with a fake identity card, Einhorn became Eugene Mallon and Flodin became his wife Annie.

The following year a Philadelphia jury found Einhorn guilty of murder in absentia and sentenced him to life imprisonment. Maddux had been killed by repeated blows to the head.

By 1993, Eugene and Annie Mallon were living quietly and comfortably in the Guilty mill at Champagne-Mouton. Annie was liked in the village, but the author, who said he was born in England and raised in California, was more reserved, speaking poor French and hardly socialising.

The slip that led to his arrest, as in all the best detective stories, was absurdly banal. Annie Mallon, nee Flodin, applied to convert her Swedish driving licence into a French permit: the French authorities requested documents from their Swedish counterparts: the Swedes told Di Benedetto Flodin had resurfaced, and on June 13 a posse of gendarmes led Einhorn away from Guilty mill in handcuffs as astonished neighbours watched.

The appeals court will issue a verdict on November 4, but Einhorn's lawyer, citing European human rights law, believes the Bordeaux judges will never permit the extradition without a retrial.

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The cheerful broker of a breakthrough

Mo Mowlam, extrovert yet sensitive to the nuances of her Northern Ireland brief, is proving a doughty fighter for peace

Mo Mowlam alights from her Citation jet at RAF Northolt and sprints to her waiting car. The Northern Ireland Secretary is late for a meeting, and the London traffic is terrible because of a suspect package under a roundabout in Chiswick. This was the only time we could talk: she was flying back to Belfast yesterday morning for (among other things) a meeting with Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party. "I'm hoping to get him to come to the talks," Would he be amenable? "I think not, but that doesn't mean you don't start trying."

Extrovert, open, sporty, a "tough old boot", in her own words, Dr Mowlam has made great strides in four months. David Trimble and Gerry Adams in the same building on Tuesday and gliding across the same table on Wednesday — that was a breakthrough, even if Trimble is implacable about actually talking with "that squalid gang of gunmen". Mo understands: she admires Trimble's courage and determination. "We've just got to keep going and build trust and confidence so all nine parties can move forward. Or is it ten?" She whizzes through them: "Alliance, Labour, Women, DUP, Sinn Féin, PUP, SDLP, UUP. We're still missing the DUP and the UKUP."

She is constantly astonished to discover how incursive the rest of us are — even political commentators — about details. We just want those talks to happen, and have no appetite for paragraphs on de-militarisation or consent. "People want the talks to work, and they don't want any trouble from either side."

Arbitrating between the hard men is quite enough to contend with but nothing more eloquently proves her doughty spirit than her cheerful relationship with the press. Tabloids may clean up their act on paparazzi, but they can still say what they like: it was the *Mail* and the *Express* who taunted Mo, earlier this year, about her increase in weight. She was forced to reveal, with commendable lack of irritation, the chemotherapy, radiotherapy and steroid treatment she was having for a non-malignant brain tumour. Until then she'd told only her husband and Tony Blair. When her hair fell out she had simply looked up "Wigs" in the Yellow Pages and found a place where she could buy them off the peg.

Under her colourful headscarf I can see strands of her own hair. In another few weeks she will have her blond locks back and will keep them short: it's such a relief not to

have to wash and blow-dry every morning. "And I have a clean bill of health," she says.

But when she admitted to having lost her temper at Stormont on Tuesday night, *The Times*'s Dr Stuttaford obliged with a diagnosis about crabbiness following brain tumours. Again Mo showed admirable restraint. "During these talks we've had many hours of difficult discussion late into the night, and I'm only human. I think to lose it once in months of negotiation is pretty good going."

"I didn't argue. I stood up and

both sides without any historical baggage."

But as Gerry Fin once said, if you stand in the middle of the road you get knocked down. "Yes, it's not always comfortable and sometimes it alienates one side or another. But I will live with that."

When she and Adams shook hands this summer, he said he hoped she would be the last Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. She promised to check the exact date for me and wrote "shook GA" on her hand with a ballpoint pen.

The first time he proffered his hand had been during an unexpected encounter two years ago, at the Washington economic conference when Adams and Patrick Mayhew met. "The next night I was standing by the dinner table and out of the corner of my eye I caught Adams coming towards me. What to do? I thought, you can't cut and run or you look a complete wimp. He came up with arm outstretched and said, 'Could I give you my condolences for the death of Harold Wilson?' Now in that situation you put your hand out and say 'Thank you for that'."

The day after Labour's general election victory, she lost no time in getting into the streets of sunny Belfast, being greeted warmly on all sides: a graphic indication of her determination to fling her energy into this unenviable new job, and of the touchy-feeliness of the new regime. Also a distinct change of style from her predecessor's.

She praises Patrick Mayhew to the skies, but he could never reach out to people like that, with his plummy voice and his commanding height. "A lovely man, a really good man," she says fondly, "but just too tall. We all come to life with different skills and limitations. I can't sing, I can't dance, I can't write, I can't spell; but something I can do is get on with people."

"People drive me and I want to get the best I can for them. I'm classless, you see." When she graduated from Durham, she invited her college cleaner along because she'd never been to a graduation ceremony before.

She was born in Southall, the daughter of a postal worker, and the family moved to Coventry when she was 11. At her comprehensive school she was made head girl — she says because she was wayward and they wanted to tame her. Her history teacher, Miss Morley, inspired the girls to talk and argue. She once turned up to hear Mo speak in Bournemouth, and sat in the front row in a turquoise suit and pillbox hat "and I'm sure she's never hated Labour".

She met her husband, Jon Norton, a banker, when he was fundraising in the City for the Labour Party in the 1980s. "He was then married with kids. Then four years later I met him again and he was divorced," she says. "In my line of business I have to make that distinction."



Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, who has been given a clean bill of health

"I think to lose it once in months of negotiation is pretty good going"

Late in August she and her husband escaped to a rented house on a Spanish mountainside for peace and solitude, resolutely avoiding other Brits — she was far from Cecil Parkinson's place, in fact — so they knew nothing of Diana's death until four days after the event, when her secretary rang to ask whether she wanted to go to the funeral. "What funeral?" asked Mo.

She has also managed, throughout these tough weeks, not to resort to smoking again. Having smoked since her teens, she'd tried everything to stop — being sponsored by consultants, going to hypnotists, chewing Nicorette and smoking at

it, and was honoured to do it. Plainly, 1997 will prove to be her *annus mirabilis* if, after triumphing over illness, and victory in the polls, she manages to get the implacable enemies "bedded down" by spring, and a referendum on an agreed settlement by next May. "Some say next May is too quick, but you must have goals to give the talks a momentum. And we are certainly in the best position this century."

"It's going to be up and down for some time yet. The only way to get through is not to treat it as glory days and glum days, or wallow in the glory or the gloominess, just treat every one the same, as in that Kipling poem..." (the one about meeting triumph and disaster and treating them the same).

And, of course, if begins: "If you can keep your head when all about you / Are losing theirs and blaming it on you..."

Established double act provide a bitter-sweet contrast

By ANN SCANLON

THE last time Oasis played in London was in November 1995. That two-night stint at Earls Court came just as their album (*What's The Story Morning Glory?*) was on its way to being a multimillion seller, but before the Gallaghers had become a daily fixture in the newspapers. Then came Knebworth, their coronation as British superstars. Now Oasis have returned to the relative intimacy of Earls Court to play three shows, supported by The Verve.

The two bands have a history of playing together, which is slightly odd because both have long cherished an ambition of being the best

ROCK

Oasis/The Verve
Earls Court

in the world. Indeed, The Verve's album *A Northern Soul* should have made it clear that they were one of Oasis's fiercest rivals.

The Verve imploded in August 1995 but returned this summer with the triumphant, string-laden single *Bitter Sweet Symphony*. With their third album, *Urban Hymns*, out on Monday, they are well on their way to playing at Earls Court on their own.

However, on the first night at least, there was something disconcerting about watching Richard Ashcroft trying to make his big soulful songs connect emotionally with a still half-filled stadium of vaguely interested Oasis fans. There were people equally keen to see The Verve but the only songs that seemed to elicit any response were the two recent singles.

The contrast between the muted reaction to The Verve and the arrival of Oasis could not have been clearer: cue the lights, the colour, the larger-than-life set, the audience screams. Liam Gallagher immediately asserted his supremacy by prowling around the stage, clenching his fist and screaming at the crowd "Come on!" — which they did. The singer went with the flow, climbing on a specially constructed bar during *Roll With It*, kicking his tambourine across the stage, booting his amplifier over during the encore, and sometimes starting directly into the camera at his feet, so that his huge projected image seemed to be singing personally to each individual in the crowd.

For all the talk of the new darker mood in Britain, this show was all about celebration.

Noel Gallagher might have dedicated the band's recent single to their support act and asked, "Do you know what I mean about The Verve?" But most people didn't have a clue. They did, however, know exactly what he meant when he came to the end of his final solo, raised his guitar above his head — half in parody — and flicked a parting V-sign.

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INTERNATIONAL
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Is Hague a one-night stand-in?

Party reform will be the real test for the Tory leader, says Tim Hames

Last month Labour marked 100 days in office. It did so in a carnival atmosphere. William Hague endured a rather less rapturous anniversary. One can only hope that Ffion has a better honeymoon.

The headlines of this September may disappear as quickly as they surfaced. The issue that will really shape Mr Hague's leadership over the next 100 weeks is the one he placed at the centre of his leadership bid: internal party reform. If this fails to impress either Tory activists or the wider electorate, his tenure will seem uncertain.

The Hague project embraces the entire structure of the Conservative Party but two key questions will largely define the enterprise: the method by which the Conservative leader is selected and the means by which parliamentary candidates are chosen. These matters will dominate the minds of activists when the Conservative Party conference opens in Blackpool.

In both cases a balance has to be struck between two sets of interests. This is especially stark in the case of leadership selection. The Conservatives have historically been the defenders of parliamentary sovereignty.

The Tories have always opposed radical change

This does not fit easily with the notion of mass party democracy. If the general election had not eliminated the Tories from Scotland and Wales or decimated them in urban England, it is unlikely that such reform would have been contemplated. Nonetheless, the issue now is how change should be implemented.

Numerous proposals have been floated. These centre on some sort of electoral college with (varying) proportions allocated to MPs and ordinary members. This device seeks to blend two features: the specialist knowledge that only MPs can have, and the need for widespread appeal. These schemes all contain a common flaw. Whatever the percentages adopted, the possibility would exist of the two components coming to alternative outcomes. That would create a crisis for whoever won the election. Labour has had the fortune to avoid this disaster so far. The Tories should not push their luck.

A better blend can be borrowed from the United States. In several states, a small number of party officials produce a shortlist of candidates who are then placed before the wider public. In effect, this is what happens in Conservative parliamentary candidate selection at present. Tory MPs should hold two preliminary leadership ballots. The first should eliminate all the contenders but three. The second should permit any aspirant who registered more than 25 per cent support among parliamentary members to enter a decisive contest conducted on the

principle of one member, one vote. Such a formula would allow discretion and democracy their due role and display deference to Tory tradition. It should also preclude the need to submit the Conservative Party Chairman to mass franchise. That exercise is unnecessary for a post of this nature and a virtual invitation to internal division.

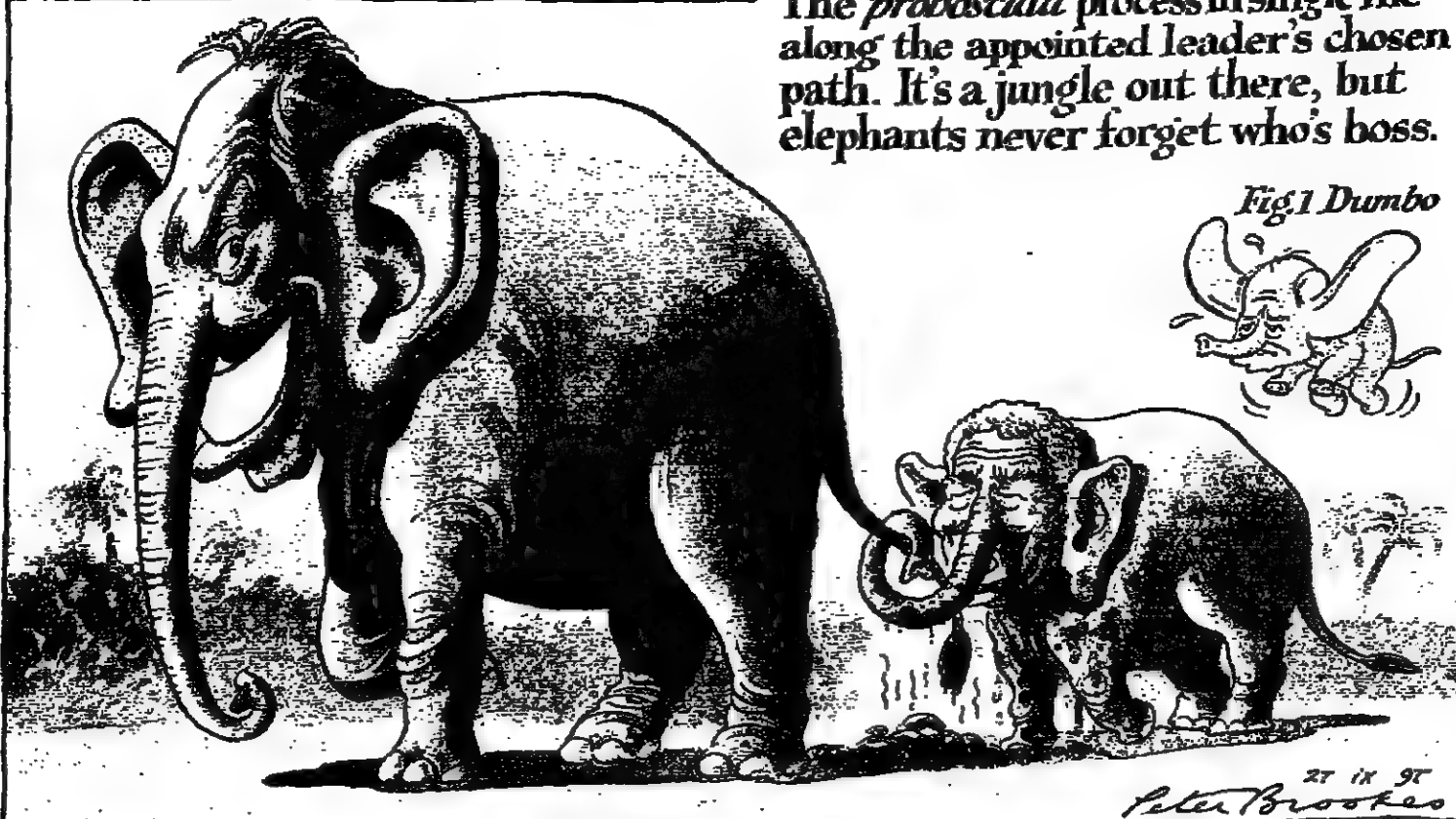
Local party selection needs far less dramatic surgery. The "Tatton factor" has been much overblown by those who would like to reduce the autonomy of local associations. It was the Conservative Party centrally which first put Neil Hamilton on its candidates list, and the Tories in Westminster who refused to remove the whip from him. In the absence of such action, the choice made by Cheshire Conservatives was perfectly proper. There is a case for allowing Central Office a limited power of veto, in exceptional circumstances, over those who would carry the party colours. If the approved list was more tightly constructed and submitted to continuous appraisal, such remedial action from the centre should be rare indeed.

The Tories should, though, be rather more concerned about the "Tina factor". The disparity in female representation at Westminster between the two major parties is stark and of more than mere symbolic importance. Cultural and institutional factors within the Conservative Party are responsible for this contrast.

The party as a whole needs to display the will to address this imbalance. All-women shortlists would be wrong in principle and legally contestable in practice. But the Conservatives had all-male shortlists in more than 80 per cent of selection contests before the last election. In all constituencies where the party exceeds a certain size, the association meeting should choose between a shortlist of three or four contenders — with both sexes represented.

The means by which the Conservative Party is redesigned will be taken as a wider reflection on Mr Hague's leadership qualities. If the reforms he promotes are taken as unduly timid, or poorly designed in the face of adverse comment, then comparisons with his catastrophic predecessor will follow. The crisis at the centre of the Conservative Party that started seven years ago when Michael Heseltine challenged Margaret Thatcher will continue. There is little prospect of recovery for the Right if that persists. The Conservatives have always opposed revolutionary change but quietly adopted it for their own affairs when the occasion appeared sufficiently urgent. Mr Hague will need to be bold if these 100 days are not to prove a prelude to his Waterloo.

NATURE NOTES



The Elephant March
The proboscida process in single file along the appointed leader's chosen path. It's a jungle out there, but elephants never forget who's boss.

Who are the barbarians?

Never mind Saudi Arabia. Our penal system is an international disgrace

I am against primitive punishment. I am against it whether the victim is male or female, British or foreign, guilty or innocent, nurse, drug dealer or common thief. Inch by inch humanity claws its way up the ladder of civilisation. When a rung snaps, we groan. We are that close to the brink.

I am not referring to the unlikely execution and flogging of two British nurses in Saudi Arabia. I refer to a punishment which received less publicity amid yesterday's anti-Arab hysteria. A British judge, Gabriel Hutton, ordered that a pregnant 17-year-old from Gloucester, in jail for shoplifting, should have her baby removed from her in the delivery room at birth so she could go back to jail to complete her sentence. She had pleaded guilty to stealing four shirts worth £60 from Marks & Spencer.

I venture that most foreigners would use the word barbaric of this punishment. In Saudi Arabia, pregnant women are automatically relieved for two years after giving birth. Britain is one of the last European countries routinely to jail people for minor property crimes. This is one reason why it has the highest and most costly prison population in Europe, and probably why recidivism is rife. The shirts may have cost Marks & Spencer £60. They will have cost the taxpayer some £30,000. This is ludicrous.

Most Britons are inured to the cruelty of a penal tradition still obsessed with retribution. They are penologically illiterate. Most would read about the 17-year-old, shrug and say she deserved it. She was a persistent offender. Her father was in prison and her mother a convict. The judge went out of his way to remark that being deprived of the baby was seen by him as part of the punishment. He said: "You deserve a real punishment to try to break once and for all this habit of stealing other people's property... only a custodial sentence can be justified."

Set aside the crude lashing of maternity to the wheel of societal revenge, set aside any trauma to the baby, this is a disproportionate response to stealing four shirts. It is the emotional equivalent of chopping off a hand. It is medieval. As for whether separation from a new baby is more or less likely to cure a case of kleptomania, even for just two weeks in this case, I would rather have a professional than a judicial view. One of the reasons why civilised

cultures abandoned lynch law and mob rule is that they preferred their law and order mediated by justice. Mobs regress. They connect a belief in a golden age of order with a more ruthless regime of punishment, a connection for which there is no shred of evidence. Britain has always ranked far down the league in penal reform. As long ago as 1215, Pope Innocent III sought to stamp out the northerners' obsession with trial by ordeal, claiming that it was ridiculous to invoke scorched flesh as a sign of guilt or innocence. (He instituted more scientific judicial cross-examination, namely the thumbscrew and the rack.) Britain was still flogging

beating a path to Florida to plead Mr Mahara's case (although, to be fair, Channel 4 has done so). Moral outrage is an easy cloak for prejudice. Americans are good Christian people, so we should not complain when they behave like, say, Arabs.

I have some sympathy with the thesis that the next global conflict will be between the West and Muslim fanaticism. Recent outrages from Algeria and Egypt through Iraq and Afghanistan, even as far as Indonesia, suggest an unstable region with immense capacity for international mischief. The fate of those who risk their careers and even lives in the primitive politics of Saudi Arabia should concern us.

Simon Jenkins

But that concern can only be effective if delicately articulated. Rubbishing Arab dictators may make good copy at home. But Saddam Hussein, Colonel Gaddafi, President Assad and the ayatollahs all testify that Western abuse is a heady elixir of power.

The new British Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, fell into the abuse trap by initially attacking the sentence as "unacceptable", a favourite Foreign Office word for what Britain no longer has any option but to accept. The Saudi verdicts were a gift to every chauvinist rabble-rouser. But xenophobic outrage — not, I note, directed at the Australian brother and accessory to the outrage — does not free prisoners. Most observers were convinced from the start that, should the nurses be found guilty, they would somehow be freed in the end. The only sure thing was that anti-Arab abuse would make this harder rather than easier. By yesterday Mr Cook had calmed his words.

Even in the best circumstances, nation is ill-advised to preach morality unto nations. Of course governments must defend their nationals who are attacked abroad, even when they are victims of a properly constituted legal system. They are equally right to ban their own citizens to profit from injustices visited by foreign governments on their own

peoples. The selling of anti-personnel equipment to Indonesia was a blot on the last Tory Government which Mr Cook has commendably reversed.

But Britain is not well-placed to criticise the penal practices of other states. In the same week that his colleague was protesting the fate of the Saudi nurses, the Home Secretary was proposing to incarcerate parents for the misdeeds of their children. He was filling a revival of a prison hulk off Portland Bill. He showed no inclination to cut the prison population or to stop squandering money on new jails. Indeed, he is proposing a "war on drugs", the sole consequence of which will be to expose ever more young people to what is now the nation's hottest drugs market, the Home Office prison service.

In last year's Douglas-Horne essay, the former Chief Inspector of Prisons, Sir Stephen Tumim, reviewed the verdicts of judges from Britain, Germany, Sweden, France and The Netherlands on a given set of crimes. The findings were stark. British judges were by far the most inclined to imprison. Continental judges were more concerned to protect society from reoffending, and were thus more aware of the effect of punishment on the criminal. Even where prison was the verdict, British sentences were longer than abroad without any obvious benefit to the crime rate. Few civilised countries nowadays incarcerate those convicted of non-violent crime, or they do so only in remedial prisons. They know that a jail is the last place likely to reform a criminal.

Britain has some of the most crowded and backward prisons in the developed world. It has packed cells, brutalised remand centres, conditions so explosive that many governors tolerate the drugs epidemic as a palliative. Britain still locks up fine defaulters and shuts away for seven years the tiny minority of soft-drug sellers who get caught. The Government is going down the costly minimum sentences route, pandering to public opinion with no basis in theory for such innovation. Not to mince words, Britain has emerged from the past decade with a policy on punishment scarcely more sophisticated than that of Third World countries it loves to pillory.

There may be a beam in our Saudi brother's eye. In our own there is a mighty mote.

Dunkirk spirit in the desert

Giles Whittell on a very British record-breaker

It is easy to misunderstand Richard Noble. Stalking the Nevada desert in denim shorts, with a black briefcase on the end of each arm and a ten-tonne titanium car streaking over the silt at more than 700 miles an hour, he is determined, you might think, to mastermind the first supercar drive in history.

He is, but only incidentally. He swears there is a larger aim than sheer speed to his dusty endeavour, and it is one that may touch some raw nerves among those who have denied him support in the past. "It's all about beating the British system," he booms, squinting into the sun, when asked what makes him stay the dangerous course. One wonders if he is serious. He is British, after all. His dedicated team is British. Most of his sponsors are British. So, is he serious? "Absolutely," he says.

It is 14 years since this big, perplexing man set his own speed record at Black Rock. That achievement made him a hero in the local bars and put his first Thrust car in a Coventry motoring museum, but it somehow failed to mark him out as a safe bet for the major corporate backing on which his brand of adventure usually depends. He talks frequently, if obliquely, of a "bad experience" with the City, when, apparently, funding was withdrawn from a company he set up in the 1980s to build a new twin-engine aircraft. He later found he was not to be trusted with adequate sponsorship for his Atlantic Sprint Blue Riband challenge, nor for the Thrust SSC project after its first disappointing outing to Jordan last year.

That mistrust is now mutual and deep. Indeed, at times it threatened to overwhelm his elation at leading a successful new land speed record bid on Thursday. "I set this up as one of the most exciting global corporate promotions of all time. It's working, but still the corporates don't come, and still we're on a knife-edge financially," he said. "I'm sick of begging."

In the rush of vindication, a leader is entitled to vent anger as well as relief. But it is worth asking which corporate promotions manager would have been wise to pour his shareholders' money into a project fraught with technical difficulties and intended to propel one man from nowhere to precisely nowhere at appalling risk to himself and arguable benefit to others.

It is in the nature of risk-taking, especially on the technological frontiers of the late 20th century, to involve snubs and logistical tightrope-walking as well as risk itself. Richard Noble has emerged, nonetheless, a triumphant winner. The secrets of his success against huge odds are various. He enlisted one of the world's leading aerodynamicists in Ron Ayers and built his team around a core of RAF professionals. But he kept it alive by turning to his real constituency — a 5,000-strong supporters' club and legions of followers on the Internet, who between them, with myriad donations and souvenir purchases, funded 20 per cent of his Black Rock expedition.

This last-minute surge of support from the private and anonymous could without hyperbole be likened to the spirit of Dunkirk. With its help Mr Noble has certainly upended one view of the British — as inspired amateurs — since he has trounced his rival, the Spirit of America, in organisation as well as speed. But his cause is still more British than perhaps he knows.

Bell push

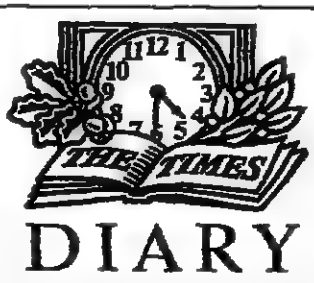
That king of spin, Sir Tim Bell, has been called in to rescue the Diana, Princess of Wales Memorial Fund from rising criticism. Sir Tim's strategists will start urgent talks with senior organisers of the fund next week. This follows a very public rumour when one of the Duke of Edinburgh's charities gave warning that the new fund would do "deep and lasting" damage to other needy causes. This time Lowie Bell, which refuses work paying less than £20,000 a month, is giving advice free. The Memorial Fund has already received more than £8 million in the first ten days of its existence, with proceeds from *Candle in the Wind* and video sales yet to be totted up.

Bar Action Research (patron: HRH the Duke of Edinburgh) says that the flood of cash cascading into the fund's coffers is diverting donations from them — "robbing Peter to pay Paul". Enter Sir Tim, who flourished as Baroness Thatcher's PR maestro and picked up big clients such

as Buck House and Boris Yeltsin. Indeed, his presentational talents enabled him to ride out unwelcome publicity over an aberration in his private life best not dwelt on here.

"The fund is taking money from the public and so it needs to present a public face, which is where we come in," Bells growls down the line of my Bakelite. "We are delighted to be involved."

John Redwood offered copies of a racy Edwina Currie novel to a second-hand bookshop last week. "You must be joking," came the reply. "She has even autographed them. No one will buy them."



Trump that

PEACE can be but a dim hope for weary citizens of war-ravaged Croatia after the latest word from that society evergreen, Ivana Trump: she intends to start her own hotel chain there.

She has just scoured the country's bomb sites in search of suitable plots to build swill hotels for holidaying plutocrats. "Ivana was an official guest of the Government," purrs her travelling companion, the inevitable Liz Brewer. "They are very eager for her to attract the right sort of tourist here. Her friends will love

NEW TIMES
Out next month: a new book by Colin Spencer, *The Gay Kama Sutra*, explores the sexual joy of biting, scratching and much, much else. His previous work was a study linking homosexuality and vegetarianism.

it." And of this blood-stained land, she says: "It's just so unspoilt." Until now, perhaps.

THIS proves that Cherie Blair is no normal woman. She has written to the estate agents who sold her Islington home — to thank them.

Luvvie trouble

GRUMPY dons at Newham College, Cambridge, are thumbing through yellowing copies of their rulebook to see whether they can sack the actress Emma Thompson, whom they boldly made an honorary fellow a year ago.

"Emma persistently promised that she would lecture the students on how to turn a book into a film," rages an irate college bluestocking. "But there is still no sign of her. We are beginning to despair that she



No lecture: Emma Thompson

will ever honour her word." The college has had more than its share of controversy, with a summer fuss over the appointment of its fellow Rachel Padham, who was born a man but is now a woman. Almost, Varsity seems to be growing racier than vaudeville.

WITH commendable concern for the taxpayer, Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, insists that I am too pessimistic in predicting that repairs to his residence will cost as much as £2 million. The approved estimate is £650,000 and he is confident the budget will be met. If so, I must borrow his builders. I shall monitor their progress.

Tucking in

POOR underfed BBC toilers. Gavin Esler, the reporter now rivaling Jeremy Paxman as *Newsnight's* male crumpet, visited Bloomberg publishers this week. "He insisted on seeing himself out," says one there. "Later I found him in the kitchens, stuffing himself with fruit. He was behaving as if he hadn't seen food for days."

OLD TIMES
"My home and my family matter a great deal to me... I need the security." Edwina Currie, the former Tory MP, speaking in 1988. She has just announced her separation from her husband to coincide with the launch of her novel *She's Leaving Home*



Georgie girl Cadbury heiress George Taylor turned a few heads

PARTY TIME. The king prawns and half-starved shrimps that comprise the world of couture swam into the capital's party scene last week to celebrate the start of London Fashion Week. Some posed, some networked, some hitched. Others just looked ill.

Among them was Anita Pallenberg, Mick Jagger's old friend. At the age of 51, she has resurfaced to undertake a fashion course at Central St Martin's School of Art.

"My first collection might be ready for next season," she threatened. "My designs are offbeat — silver, black and powder blue." None the wiser, her attention drifted to the so-called

"supermodel" Elle Macpherson but conversation stalled rather when she enthused about shoes with red soles.

Much (male) interest was expressed in George Taylor, 21, the Cadbury heiress and latest discovery of catwalk fixer Izzie Blow. Brought up a Quaker, she is being ushered around the shows by Mama. In the parlance of the rich kid, she ventured: "Some designers have been so rude — that ghastly David Fielden dressed me in silly pants and laughed as I was bigger than the other girls. When I've saved up enough from modelling I'll go and study in New York."

JASPER GERARD



FOOLS RUSH IN

A snap decision on EMU would destroy all trust in Blair

As he sets out for the Labour Party conference in Brighton, Tony Blair has the look of a man whose conquest of Britain is more assured with every week in power. The conquest of Europe must seem daily more enticing and more achievable and the thrust of Mr Blair's strategy has already been declared. It is to use the example of Britain's economic success to win over its partners in the flexible market doctrines that will shorten their dilemmas and restore Europe's international competitiveness.

Fate has fired the starting gun for this campaign by giving Britain the six-month presidency of the European Union in January. Because this straddles the date when EU governments must decide who joins the first wave of economic and monetary union, the Prime Minister was bound by this autumn to come under intense pressure to accept that a commitment on joining EMU is needed to enhance his leverage.

Mr Blair was elected on the understanding that he would defend British interests in Europe as robustly as any Tory. He must keep the presidency and EMU firmly compartmentalised in his own mind if he is not to be bounced into a step that would break the precious bond of trust with the country that he has so successfully forged. To enter EMU at all would be to hazard Britain's prosperity and its future on a project which is politically flawed and economically ill-judged. It would manacle the nation's freedom to act. To enter in the wake of the first wave would be to make a mockery of the claim that Labour's position is purely pragmatic.

The City's belief that the pro-EMU camp in the Cabinet will triumph is already proof against Mr Blair's efforts publicly to counter that, while all options remain open, the Government is minded to wait and see whether EMU is a success before deciding on British membership. Even after the inevitable disclaimers from Mr Blair and the Treasury, a *Financial Times* report yesterday that the Government was poised for a positive "declaration of intent" on joining EMU soon after the January 1999 launch date was enough to depress sterling and send the FTSE 100 soaring 160 points.

Since both trends are exactly what the Government would wish, the position of such influential friends of EMU as Gordon

Brown, Lord Simon of Highbury and the Confederation of British Industry will be strengthened. Robin Cook, the Cabinet's ranking sceptic, has accepted that Britain should not stand aloof from a successful EMU; and the task of defining success and assessing the economic costs and benefits of joining lies in Mr Brown's domain. If this was a kite released from somewhere near the Treasury roof, it caught a fair wind. The Prime Minister should redouble his guard.

Mr Blair's own position on British membership of EMU is agnostic. He is untroubled by the principle of surrendering Britain's economic sovereignty, wrongly believing this argument to be an anachronism in a globalised economy. On the national economic interest, he is open to persuasion. The politics of EMU is what matters to him. His overriding concern is to secure the full two terms in office that, he is convinced, are essential if new Labour is to set its stamp on Britain. He may think that the political bottom line of deciding to join EMU in the lifetime of this Parliament is that Labour must first fight and win a referendum — and do so decisively and without losing political momentum.

Mr Blair is now expected to state Britain's position before the December 31 deadline for saying whether Britain will join in January 1999. He may easily be persuaded that the country can be softened up for early entry by a statement of readiness in principle to join. From there, the slippery slope steepens. The Brown camp could, while conceding that to set a firm timetable would be too risky, argue that the Government should seek an "enabling" referendum, which set no date but asked the British people also to give its assent in principle to EMU and leave the timing to the Government. That would seal Labour's pact with business. Mr Blair would be told; and with the Tories disorganised and Labour's standing in the country so high, he should seize the tide of fortune. But if he heeds this advice, he will be swept onto the political rocks.

Mr Blair might win the referendum, but at the cost of his outstanding political asset, his reputation for straight dealing. On the most momentous decision this country has faced since the war, he would have acted as a political opportunist. He would never be forgiven. He would not deserve to be.

MANDELA ON TRIAL

The President himself must stand up to his ex-wife

In defiant mood, and with considerable theatre, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela presented herself yesterday to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission. She declared her intention to see "matters settled" and demanded the right to public hearings. The commission continued its in-camera deliberations but meekly acceded to her request. The stage is now set for an extraordinary encounter in November. It is not one that either Nelson Mandela or the African National Congress will relish.

Mrs Mandela's approach sits in uneasy contrast with the accusations against her. She has long been directly implicated in the murder of Stompie Seipei, a 14-year-old boy who died at the hands of her infamous "Mandela United" football club in Soweto eight years ago. The recent revelations by Katiza Cebekhulu, a crucial witness to those events, has served to reinforce past suspicions. An additional 17 counts of gross human rights abuses including seven murders involving Mrs Mandela are now in front of the commission.

Mrs Mandela has portrayed her willingness to face open examination as proof of her innocence. Others suspect that she will swiftly be able to turn proceedings into a rally bordering on farce. Those once tempted to serve as witnesses will now take place only weeks before an ANC conference at which Mrs Mandela is a candidate for ANC deputy president. If elected, she would likely emerge as South Africa's Deputy President in two years' time.

Neither the investigation of the charges against her nor her own political campaign

should be allowed to continue in this fashion. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was created to examine and — if the facts merited it — absolve violent acts committed under, and as a consequence of, apartheid. It has performed a difficult task with skill. Under no circumstances can the allegations of killings, kidnappings and torture that have been collected against Mrs Mandela be considered an unfortunate part of the struggle for national liberation. The proper place for them is South Africa's judicial system and the result of any convictions obtained should be imprisonment.

This is as much a test for the ANC as for the legal process. The movement has consistently failed to stand up to Mrs Mandela. This has progressively strengthened her position. Mr Mandela's reluctance to deal with his former spouse is understandable. But he and his appointed successor, Thabo Mbeki, now face the real prospect that she will shortly climb to a post from which it is impossible to constrain her. That may be avoided only if the President ensures that one single opponent stands against her and if he and Mr Mbeki crusade for that figure.

Mr Mandela has embraced his former opponents and is the living symbol of South Africa's settlement. He has set a powerful example in international affairs. This outstanding legacy will be drastically undermined if he leaves office with Mrs Mandela anticipating power when many South Africans believe she should be awaiting prison. The ANC cannot expect to be taken seriously at home or abroad if it allows that to happen.

FAT CAN BE A FEMININE VIRTUE

This British television series roasts American food humbugs

Two fat ladies from the United Kingdom are making a splash in the United States. A new series of their television programme *Two Fat Ladies* begins on the BBC on Monday. It features typically extravagant canapés and name-dropping while preparing for a reception by the Brazilian Ambassador. And the British cult following for this larger-than-life cooking programme will enjoy (vicariously) blinis with lashings of sour cream, caviar and cigarette ash, louché old-girl asides, and trebles of a Brazilian drink made from rum and lime at the Dorchester afterwards.

Their success on American television, as our US Editor reports today, may seem at first taste more surprising. Their programmes have just had their première on the Food Network and have taken the American critics by storm. And this is odd, because these British heavyweight cooking champs are the opposites to all that is fashionable on American television. Even their name is wrong. As they might drawl, "ladies" sounds like a public convenience.

As cooks, Jennifer Paterson and Clarissa Dickson Wright are paradoxically as well as politically incorrect. Their recipes are greedy

with cream and brandy, fat and gossip. They smoke and sing while they cook, and lick their not obviously clean fingers, which are encrusted with nail varnish and antique rings. They do not believe in eating on an empty stomach. As television food stars perform, they are both old, there is no euphemising it) fat, indiscreet, and outrageously funny about the narcissistic conventional wisdom of a healthy diet. They dislike vegetables and hate vegetarians and dismiss modern hygiene as a terrible mistake. They proclaim that their mission is to cure the British and Americans of the Puritan ethic, to teach them how to enjoy life.

The British fat ladies go down a treat in America partly because they confirm American images of British eccentricity and snobbery, but also because most Americans do not conform to their television image of slim, young, exquisite salad-chewing joggers and drinkers of mineral water. T-bone steaks overlapping their plates and pecan pie à la mode also form part of the American dream. By some standards of Des Moines and Miami, our *Two Fat Ladies* are comparatively svelte: Two Average Women.

Lessons of Tory leadership ballot

From Mr David Hurford-Jones

Sir, As a Conservative Party activist for more than 25 years I suspect that the letter in your columns from Mr Norman Lamont in support of William Hague (September 22: see also letters, September 20 and 24) may have been the kiss of death.

We all know that reform of the party structure is long overdue. But the most important element of that reform is to reform the system for electing the leader, so that the leader has the authority that comes from endorsement by the membership.

William Hague was not the choice of the constituencies and he was only the first choice of 25 per cent of our remaining MPs. He promised during his campaign for the leadership that when the system had been reformed he would put himself up for re-election.

It is clear that by linking endorsement of his leadership to the outcome of his reform agenda he is trying to avoid having to stand for re-election under the reformed electoral system against other candidates.

Furthermore, William Hague has been arguing against the Scottish devolution referendum on the ground that such a referendum should come after the details have been hammered out. But in this case we have been asked to vote for his reforms in advance of that.

It is all very unfortunate, but let us hope we can put these matters right when we have nearly five years before another election.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HURFORD-JONES
(Chairman, Burford Branch,
West Oxfordshire Conservative
Association),
Island House, Burford, Oxfordshire,
September 26.

From Mr Ronald Forrest

Sir, A principal objection to the radical changes proposed for future Conservative leadership elections is that the average constituency member is far less knowledgeable of political matters than MPs and certainly lacks their experience of daily contact with potential leaders.

One would therefore hope that the party will not accept the proposal to have a "one person, one vote" electoral system. But even an electoral college allowing party members a limited percentage of the total vote must be suspect for the same reasons.

Nobody could deny, on the other hand, that there are clearly valid objections to the present situation in which MPs representing only a quarter of the nation's constituencies decide who the next Conservative leader should be.

A solution would be to have an electoral college consisting of a variable percentage of the votes coming from MPs (depending on how many there are at the time of a leadership election) and the rest from the other Conservative candidates and Conservative Members who retired from Parliament at the previous general election.

This system would have two indisputable advantages. In almost all cases parliamentary candidates and former MPs have a much deeper knowledge of politics than constituency members, and since all these people will have been chosen by constituency members they would surely make ideal representatives.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD FORREST
(Chairman, Preseli Pembrokeshire
Conservative Association),
Delfryn, Castle Morris,
Nr Haverfordwest, Pembrokeshire,
September 25.

From Mr Carl Reader

Sir, I am incensed by the patronising comments of Sir Julian Critchley (letter, September 24) concerning one member, one vote. The people who pay "a paltry annual subscription" are also the people who knock on the doors at election times to get the likes of Sir Julian elected. We are also expected to raise money for the constituency associations.

The members of the ward committees which I chair wholeheartedly support William Hague's plans to give members a greater say in the formation of policy and in the election of the party leader. There is no alternative to one member, one vote. We are able to choose who we want to govern this country, yet are judged by Sir Julian to be incapable of choosing our party leader.

My hope is that the new Conservative Party will concentrate on becoming a truly mass-membership party.

Yours faithfully,
CARL READER,
4 Kettleby Rise, Old Hatch Warren,
Basingstoke, Hampshire,
September 24.

Feuding ministers

From Mr Alan Thompson

Sir, Your front-page report today, "Feuding ministers stall Blair reforms", brings comfort to those of us who were concerned that Frank Field might be eventually persuaded to surrender his legendary integrity in order to enhance the political security of others.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN THOMPSON,
Sun Haunt,
Little Bealings, Woodbridge, Suffolk,
September 26.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Church and State in Blair's Britain

From Mr Paul H. Tipler

Sir, Few readers could disagree with John Lloyd's assertion (article, "Blair is now the kingmaker", September 19) that both the Crown and Church, or at least the institutions, are in their different ways "leaning Left" and "deeply exhausted". This is however rather different from stating that "they have lost their faith and need to be saved".

I am not qualified to pass comment on the state of the monarchy; but as a Christian and church member for over 20 years, I find in parts of the Church that there is greatly increasing faith and confidence.

Lloyd credits the evangelical wing of the Church with a semi-fundamentalist enthusiasm, but then dismisses its members as "unable to develop a working model of faith in which rational people could wholeheartedly believe". Knowing many such people from all walks of life, I regard this simplistic statement as patently untrue, even of much of the established Church.

The Church has indeed become more radical; Jesus will always be radical compared to any current orthodoxy. It has therefore found some common ground with reforming elements within the new Labour Party. Surely this pro-active approach is a sign of modernising rather than shoring up the Church as Mr Lloyd suggests.

The Church's lack of media lustre would now seem to indicate strength as opposed to weakness, with the majority of its activity carried out behind the scenes.

I also tend to believe that Someone, other than new Labour, will continue to inspire its relevance to today's society. Those of us within the Church view our future through the eyes of faith as well as sight.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL H. TIPLER
(Member, National Council,
Movement for Christian Democracy),
3 Highfield Grove, Bristol, Avon,
September 21.

Need for inquiries

From the Chief Executive of SANE

Sir, According to "experts" interviewed by Alex Frean, inquiries into mental health tragedies are costly and achieve little (report, September 23). SANE would agree that most of the inquiries do report a total lack of communication between agencies and that any one health authority does not appear to learn any lessons from its neighbour.

However, what would happen if there were no inquiries? It would be rather like having an air crash and not investigating the "black box" to see how and why the accident occurred and allowing faulty aircraft to continue to fly — with obvious consequences. The argument that for every crash thousands travel safely does not justify shrugging our shoulders when a disaster happens.

In most instances the health authorities concerned will take on board the recommendations of the inquiry and eventually mental health

From the Editor of
The Church of England Newspaper

Sir, John Lloyd is only half right. Certainly the Church is facing an impressive challenge in the Blair Government's push towards modernisation of British society.

It may be that the Church's establishment will continue, but modernisation means more for the Church than simply "shoring up" its position. The Church of England is not dependent on its influence on the Government, and if disestablishment is to take place during the lifetime of a Blair administration its work will continue. But the Church will undoubtedly find a way to carry on its spiritual ministry to the nation, with or without bishops sitting in the House of Lords.

Mr Lloyd seems to imply that it is only the form of tradition which resonates with people, and the response to the funeral service for Diana, Princess of Wales, demonstrates that people do turn to the Church in times of grief. He should not forget that across the spectrum of churchmanship the Church is not dying. Indeed, both Tony Blair and the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, owe their political inspiration to their faith.

Interestingly, Mr Lloyd admits that faith is evident at least on the evangelical wing, but it can be seen across the spectrum of churchmanship. Both archbishops, from different ends of that spectrum, are men of faith and can be trusted to work with Mr Blair to modernise the Church's relationship with the State. However, this does not mean that the Church is "leaning Left".

The Church does not depend on Labour and, while it is clearly willing to work with a Government that listens to its concerns, it would do well to remember that it cannot slavishly nail its colours to the new Labour mast.

Yours sincerely,
C. M. BLAKELY, Editor,
The Church of England Newspaper,
10 Little College Street, SW1,
September 19.

services may improve. Surely this is better than allowing a fragmented system to persist whereby a vulnerable, mentally ill person can suffer such deterioration that he or she can commit homicide or, more likely, a lonely suicide.

I fully endorse Sir Louis Blom-Cooper in his reported conviction that inquiry teams should be given the right to revisit health authorities a year after the report to ensure that their recommendations have been implemented. That is the only way lessons might be learnt.

However, until those who are mentally ill get automatic access to treatment when they need it, for as long as they need it, then these tragedies will continue to happen.

The community has the right to know why and how the system failed sufferers, families and the public.

Yours sincerely,
MARJORIE WALLACE,
Chief Executive, SANE,
199-205 Old Marylebone Road, NW1,
September 24.

Summary justice

From Mr Philip A. Fleming

Sir, With regard to the letter from Mr L. M. Oliver (September 15) concerning the suicide of a teacher who had been charged with possession of indecent photographs of a child: it is correct that this is a summary offence (Section 160 of the Criminal Justice Act 1988), but the penalty was increased with effect from February 3, 1995, by virtue of Section 86 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. The maximum penalty for the offence is now six months' imprisonment, or a fine, or both.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP A. FLEMING
(Crown prosecutor),
6 Acrefield Avenue,
Heaton Moor,
Stockport, Cheshire,
September 15.

Russian visas

From Mr Mark Dinan

Sir, The Russian Ambassador (letter, September 18; see also letter, September 10) is quite correct to draw attention to the plight of Russian citizens seeking UK visas.

I have had contact with a large number of Russian visitors over the past twelve months. They have all said that they were subjected to humiliating, lengthy and sometimes intimidating interviews, with spouses often being interviewed separately. Many had friends who were refused visas without any obvious reason.

All claim that getting a British visa is an infinitely more difficult and unpleasant task than obtaining a visa from the US or another EU embassy, and that Britain alone has a policy of keeping Russian visitors to a minimum.

Such a reputation cannot be helpful for British business in what is becoming one of the world's most important markets.

Yours sincerely,
MARK DINAN,
28 Palace Court,
Adams Close, Surbiton, Surrey,
mdinan@compuserve.com
September 18.

No 1 Poultry sets feathers flying

From Mrs Sheila Jones

Sir, City of London workers were not wrong in objecting to Sir James Stirling's design. Number One Poultry ("Was this worth three decades of argument?", Marcus Binney, September 23) looks exactly as the artist's impression promised: like a stage set from Aida made of Battenberg cake.

Even more unsightly than 125 London Wall, the span of which adds insult to injury by blocking out the last bit of sky over the City, it is totally out of character, sympathy and architectural ethos with the City as a whole, let alone its hub. It jumps down your throat as every distant sighting from the streets fanning away from the Bank.

Whoever devises and sanctions these buildings should be locked in the Tower. Lucky Nicholas Ridley and James Stirling are released from the pain the rest will have to suffer every time we cross the Bank.

Yours sincerely,
SHEILA JONES,
Old Broad Street Bureau Limited,
65 London Wall, EC2,
September 23.

From Sir Peter Kemp

Sir, Can Marcus Binney have actually seen the new Number One Poultry? Does he remember just how awful the old Mappin & Webb building was? Has he got the imagination to see how appalling the alternative prism-shaped affair would have been?

The new building is a vision of light and colour, something which uplifts the City and puts a spring in the stride of everyone who walks past it.

Yours etc,
PETER KEMP,
2 Longton Avenue, SE26,
September 23.

From Mr Edward J. O'Brien

Sir, Mr Marcus Binney will surely appreciate one great benefit of Number One Poultry. How are we and our children to judge what is good architectural design unless we are able to observe the bad?

I will never criticise the BBC building again.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD J. O'BRIEN,
48 Springfield, Cam, Gloucestershire,
edobrien@compuserve.com

From Miss Elizabeth Lewis

Sir, Perhaps it is the colour, cream and pink; or perhaps it is the bulging form and cavernous maw; or perhaps it is the name; but to me the new building suggests an oven-ready supermarket chicken.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH LEWIS,
Frith Farm House,
Frith Lane, Wickham, Hampshire,
September 24.

Ask a silly question . . .

From John McKibbin

Sir, In 1946 I recounted to a senior diplomat some of the questions put to me during the lengthy postwar examination for entry into the Foreign Service (letters, September 1, 10, 16, 20, 22).

He commented: "What a waste of time! In my day the answer to one question was enough — who's your bootmaker?" I quickly tucked my feet under the chair.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MCKIBBIN,
31 Northway, NW11,
September 23.

From Mr Mark Ashford

Sir, A candidate was undergoing the ordeal of the Admiralty Interview Board when the president, an Admiral or similarly terrifying figure, waved his hand at a map on the wall and invited him to "point to Marmansk". The candidate hadn't a clue, but, spying next to the map a photo of the Royal Family, he confidently stuck his finger on one of the corgis and said "It's that one, Sir".

The interview concluded in breathless disarray and he went on to a successful career in the Senior Service.

Yours faithfully,
MARK ASHFORD,
79 Oliver Street,
Amphill, Bedfordshire.

From Mrs Lesley Moule

Sir, My friend, being interviewed for a place to read geography at university, was given a piece of rock and asked what it was.

"A paperweight," she replied.

Yours faithfully,
LESLIE MOULE,
17 Rivett Close,
Baldock, Hertfordshire,
September 22.

Thirsty work

From Dr George W. Scott

Sir, Celebrations are in order for the British team in Nevada on breaking the land speed record with 714mph (details, September 26). It is reported that the nearest bar is eight miles away across the desert. If they drive there it should take them 40 seconds.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE SCOTT,
Panities,
Wilderness Road, Chislehurst, Kent,
September 26.

THE TIMES
Portfolio

£2,000 to be won

Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio panel below. In the column provided next to your eight shares enter the share movements as published on this page. Ignore fractions, it enters 16: as 16 (the symbol — means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total, which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £2,000 daily prize.

[illegible]

Flash is king

1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 26



HOT SEAT 30
Guy Hands:
the risk-taker
at Nomura

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

BUSINESS

WEEKEND
MONEY
SECTION 2 PAGES 51-64

Shares surge to record level as sterling takes a beating

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE stock market stormed to a record high and the pound plunged as speculation that Britain will make an early entry into a European single currency reached fever pitch.

Traders seized on reports that the Government is moving towards a more pro-EMU stance as evidence that Britain could join a single currency as soon as 2000.

Although the Treasury moved swiftly to dismiss the reports as "speculation", the City was predicting that a firm announcement on the Government's plans for EMU could be made as early as next week at the Labour conference.

The FTSE 100 closed up 100.8 points at 5,226.3, the biggest one-day points gain for ten years. The rise added nearly £30 billion to the value of the index. The stock market's meteoric rise was also aided by a rise on Wall Street after a downwards revision in US second-quarter GDP figures.

Gilt prices also climbed steeply with the benchmark December gilt contract leaping 11½p to close at 119½, while the spread with German bunds narrowed by two basis points to 98.

While shares and bonds soared on expectations that EMU entry will mean lower interest rates, the pound went into reverse as it lost its "safe haven" status. The pound slipped to a four-month low against the German mark during trading, before settling down four pence at DM2.8324. Sterling's trade-weighted index slipped 1.4 points to 99.7, while the pound lost two cents to \$1.6053.

Economists said that the pound was also suffering because the Government is likely to want to enter EMU at levels closer to DM2.50. Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, added that by stirring speculation about UK entry into EMU, the Government was capping gilt yields and edging sterling lower "without precipitating a currency crisis."

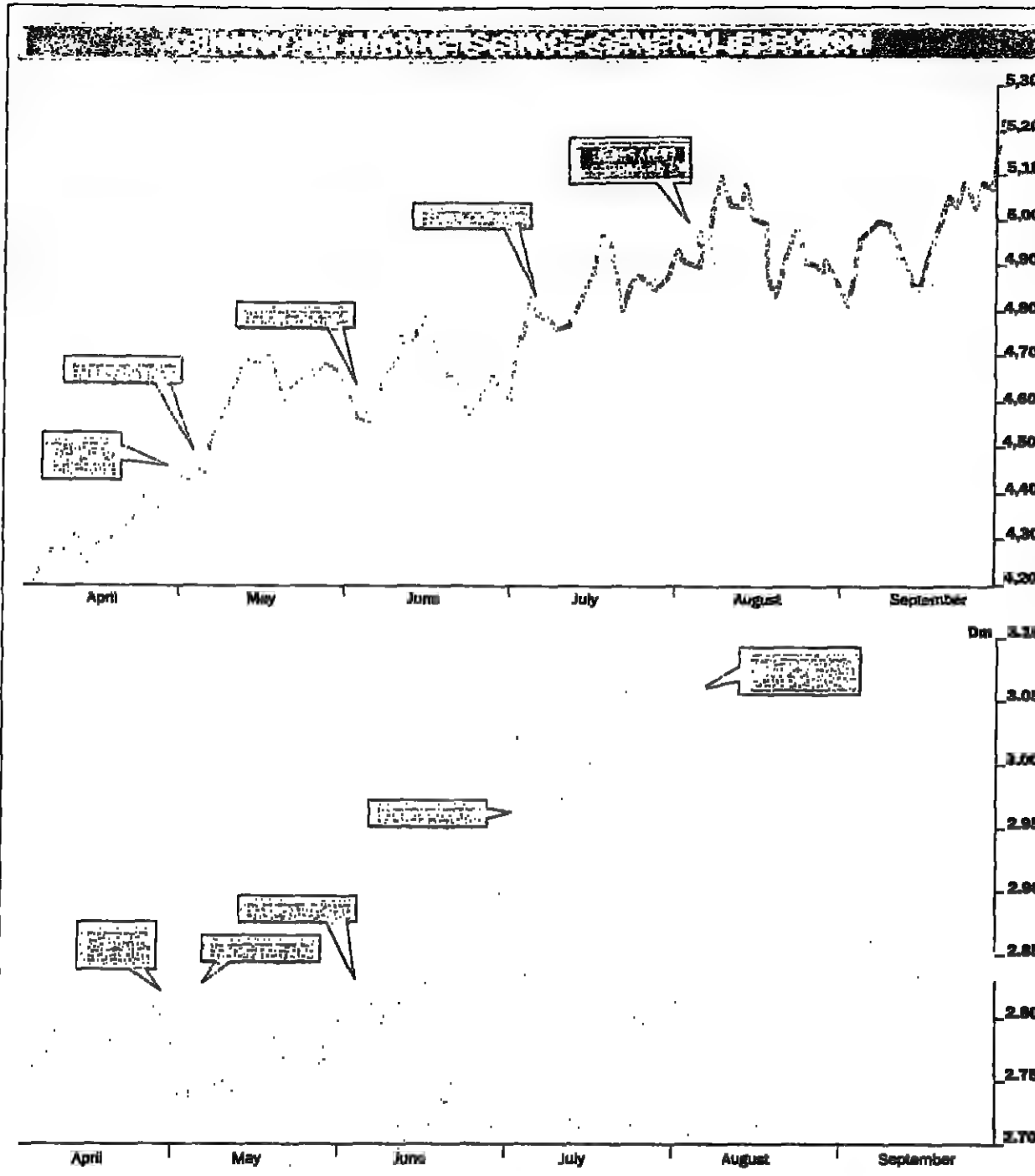
Economists also cautioned about the short-term outlook for the market, pointing to the fact that the fall in sterling made it more likely that the Bank of England will raise rates. Philip Shaw, UK economist at Investec, said: "The fall in sterling has eased the Bank's policy dilemma making a rate rise more likely."

Financial services sector stocks led the stock market higher with analysts calculating that higher bond prices and lower interest rates will boost profits. Barclays jumped 13½p to £16.64½. Nat West rose 85½p to 932½p while Lloyds TSB was 45p better off at £20½p. Industrial and manufacturing stocks also enjoyed a strong showing as the pound tumbled. GKN climbed 89½p to £14.19, while TI rose 55p to 661½p.

Businesses with a strong European presence gave a warm welcome to the reports. Peter Foster, finance director at Commercial Union, said: "Given the fact that we have such major operations within continental Europe, we would certainly find a lot of attractions in joining in with a common European currency."

British Steel, which has seen profits tumble over the past year due to the strength of the pound, cautioned on joining at the current high level of the pound. John Rennocks, executive director of finance, said the company would welcome the more stable currency outlook if the UK joined EMU.

Commentary, page 29
Stock market, page 31



Homes lending drops 11% in August

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BANK mortgage lending slowed in August providing the first tentative evidence that interest rate rises are beginning to depress the housing market.

The British Bankers Association showed gross lending totalled £2.77 billion in August, a fall of 11 per cent from July.

The seasonally adjusted measure of net mortgage lending — which takes into account repayments of mortgage debts — rose by £753 million last month against £880 million in July and well below the recent monthly average.

The number of new approvals slipped back 17 per cent to 37,381, while their total value declined 18 per cent to £2.72 billion. The BBA said these falls were well below those recorded in August last year.

But the average value of approvals rose 4 per cent to £59,300.

Tim Sweeney, BBA director-general, said: "It may be that recent increases in interest rates have started to have some effect, though a clearer picture may emerge once overall mortgage industry figures for the month are published."

Mr Sweeney said it was clear that the housing market recovery had been accompanied by "steady rather than spectacular growth in mortgage lending".

The BBA warned that the figures were not the final proof of a slowdown in the housing market as falls in August were not unusual and comparisons with last year had been distorted by inclusion of the National & Provincial business for the first time in last August's figures.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES	
FTSE 100	5226.3 (+100.8)
Nikkei	17994.71 (+347.25)
DAX	2325.7 (+25.49)
Hang Seng	7908.82 (+82.91)
S&P Composite	943.69 (+5.78)

US RATE	
Federal Funds	5¼% (5¼%)
Long Bond	7¼% (7¼%)
Yield	6.37% (6.41%)

LONDON MONEY	
3-month interbank	7¼% (7¼%)
Libor long (Dec)	11½% (11½%)

STERLING	
New York	1.6053 (1.6053)
London	1.6053 (1.6053)
Frankfurt	2.8324 (2.8324)
Paris	2.3389 (2.3389)
Yen	126.82 (126.82)
S. Korea	86.7 (86.7)

USD \$/DOLLAR	
London	1.7883 (1.7883)
Frankfurt	1.8000 (1.8000)
Paris	1.4528 (1.4528)
Yen	126.82 (126.82)
S. Korea	86.7 (86.7)

NORTH SEA OIL	
Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$18.40 (\$18.15)
OIL	

LONDON OIL	
Brent 15-day (Dec)	\$18.40 (\$18.15)

Takeover bid lifts shares in T&N

By GEORGE SIVILL

SHARES in T&N, the vehicle components group, laid low by asbestos claims, soared 60p to 242½p after it revealed a takeover approach from Federal Mogul, the Michigan car components group.

The approach, at 235p a share, values T&N at £2.3 billion. Analysts believe a counterbid from another American group is likely. T&N responded by saying it was evaluating the bid with N M Rothschild, its advisers.

Federal Mogul has annual sales of \$2 billion (£1.25 billion) against almost £2 billion for T&N in 1996; employs 14,000 around the world and has a European headquarters in Wiesbaden, Germany.

One analyst said: "It's certainly an offer that T&N shareholders will have to consider," adding that it remained to be seen if T&N recommended the bid.

Another analyst said that the Federal Mogul bid undervalues T&N, which he believes is worth up to 250p a share. He said the company should stress its global market position, its engineering strengths and the fact that margins are recovering in many of its markets, and move the market's focus away from its "bad reputation" on asbestos.

Tempus, page 31

Cash is king for 43% of Northern Rock holders

By CAROLINE MERRILL

NEARLY half of Northern Rock customers have opted to sell their shares immediately in an auction to be held on the eve of the society's flotation next week. The society estimates about 43 per cent of its members will sell their entire holding of 500 shares through the Hoare Govett facility.

They are selling their shares, in spite of the fact that it will cost them £10. The Alliance & Leicester, Woolwich and Halifax, all offered free share dealing facilities. Approximately a quarter of the shares in these three converted societies were sold by investors immediately.

In spite of the high number of people selling out, City Index, the financial bookmaker, forecasts that shares in the Northern Rock could reach

between 420p and 433p when the society makes its stock market debut on October 1. This would give each of Northern Rock's 900,000 members an average windfall of £2,100 — higher than nearly all the other converting societies.

Northern Rock's membership are selling their shares even though City analysts believe that it is a good growth stock. Salomon Brothers said: "It is a cost-efficient operation which allows profitability at low margins. Northern Rock should significantly outpace the 6-7 per cent growth in the mortgage market."

Adam Applegarth, Northern Rock executive director, said: "The high number of people selling is a culmination of number of things. We have a predominantly local mem-

bership. Georgies tend to like cash."

He pointed out that the North East and Newcastle have the lowest proportion of people who own shares. He added: "We suspect that many sellers will use some of their windfall for holiday or new household goods or just a treat in general."

Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, said in Hong Kong yesterday that building societies are going to find it increasingly difficult to remain mutual "because they do not have access to capital and capital eventually is king". Abbey National converted to a bank and floated on the stock market in 1989.

Tempus, page 31
Rock steady, page 64

Buffett may sell stake in Salomon

WARREN BUFFETT, the billionaire investor, could sell his 19 per cent Salomon stake after the bank's \$9 billion merger this week with Travelers Group, according to Deryck Maughan, the Salomon executive chairman (Oliver August writes).

Mr Buffett backed the merger and will hold a 4 per cent stake in the new group worth \$550 million after the proposed stock swap. In an interview with *The Times* Mr Maughan said: "He has not characterised it as a long-term holding. He is positive on the deal, but whatever he does won't critically affect us."

Although he is a senior non-executive director of Salomon, Mr Buffett will not be on the Travelers board.

Fellow Traveler, page 28

Reed admits circulation figures were overstated

By ADAM JONES

REED ELSEVIER could face legal demands for compensation of at least £125 million after admitting drastic overstatement of circulation figures on some of its leading international directories.

A full investigation is underway at its Reed Travel Group division, which publishes airline and hotel directories and the company advises "a substantial write-down" is likely.

Shares of Reed International, the UK arm of the Anglo-Dutch group, fell 49½p to 536½p yesterday as investors sought to quantify the extent of the damage. The company said it would take "a number of months" before the extent of the overstatement is known.

Advertisers were overcharged for five years in some cases after incorrect circulation figures were issued for the airline and hotel directories.

The overstatement took place between 1991 and 1995, when the directories produced total revenues of about £500 million.

One industry source estimated the circulation overstatement could be 15 to 20 per cent. Advertisers include the Hyatt and Sheraton hotel groups, United Airlines and British Airways.

Nigel Stapleton, Reed Elsevier co-chairman, said it was too early to say whether the irregularities will warrant police investigation.

The board also intends to write down intangible asset values. Market speculation yesterday suggested this could be by more than £100 million. Reed said the irregularities

had been discovered after new management arrived at Reed Travel Group last August. The publications involve *Official Airline Guides* (OAG), bought from the administrator of Robert Maxwell's Maxwell Communication Corporation for £275 million in 1993. Reed confirmed yesterday that the irregularities involve OAG, although it said they date from after the purchase.

The problems also involve Hotel Travel Index titles, bought from The News Corporation in 1989. Reed said there was no evidence of irregularities before 1991.

The investigation will involve Freshfields, the UK law firm. Auditors were not confirmed last night.

Commentary, page 29

George Soros is not a man who takes kindly to criticism. Neither is Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the mercurial Prime Minister of Malaysia. So delegates at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) annual conference in Hong Kong could not quite believe it when Soros dismissed the Malaysian premier as "a menace to his country".

Dr Mahathir's "crime" had been to launch an outspoken attack on "immoral" financial speculators, blaming them for Malaysia's economic malaise. His proposed solution — a ban on currency trading — sent the ringgit to a 26-year low against the dollar, leaving the doctor literally under a pall. The smoke drifting

across from Indonesia did little for his mood.

The fun and games at the IMF came sandwiched neatly between two headline-grabbing mergers, and a rampant display by the London stock market. No sooner had Price Waterhouse announced its engagement with Coopers & Lybrand, than Travelers Group, owner of Smith Barney, the US broker, unveiled plans to swallow Salomon, the hard-nosed Wall Street investment

bank. The \$9 billion deal makes a millionaire of Peter Middleton, the motoring monk who tried to sort out the mess at Lloyd's of London. Middleton, who has expanded comfortably into his new role, cleans up on Salomon shares. He will head the enlarged European operations of Salomon Smith Barney, leaving the task of running the worldwide firm to Deryck Maughan, the New York-based son of a Durham coalminer. The last laugh went to Warren Buffett,

whose reputation as a canny investor has proved well-founded over the years. Little over a week ago, the markets reacted in horror at his decision to shift \$2 billion out of equities and into bonds — a traditional haven ahead of an impending stock market crash. A few days on, his long-held stake in Salomon stands to net him a profit of at least \$1.4 billion, leaving him more or less back where he started.

Another investment powerhouse, the

mighty Nomura found itself cast in the unlikely role of Britain's biggest landlord, when it gulped down innkeeper and Spring Inns for £1.2 billion. Eurotunnel edged into the black for the first time in 11 years, but there was less cheer at Sears, which announced plans to sell or close all its shoe shops, leading to up to 850 redundancies.

Carlsberg-Tetley said it was getting rid of three of its five breweries, scuppering 1,500 jobs. Poor Laura

Ashley issued its third profit warning in five months, turning up the heat on Ann Iverson, the group's ever-hopeful chief executive.

NatWest Markets stuck its neck out with a prediction that the FTSE 100 would hit 7,000 by the end of 2000. By good fortune, yesterday's reaction to an EMU rumour brought that target significantly closer.

One senses the hand again of Soros, who famously made \$1 billion shorting the pound ahead of the UK's withdrawal from the ERM in 1992. Back in smoke-shrouded Kuala Lumpur, Dr M can only sit and weep.

JON ASHWORTH

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Why does Nomura, Japan's mighty broking house, want to own 6,000 British pubs, 57,000 Army houses and a third of our trains?

The answer lies with Guy Hands. He is the rather shambling financier who had the gall to doorstep Nomura clutching a business plan three years ago. He was working for Goldman Sachs at the time. Hands persuaded Takumi Shibata, Nomura's then London banking boss, that he should be allowed to use the bank's vast capital base to take assets onto its own books and then lay off that risk by securitisation. Shibata bought the idea, and the new category of creative financial engineering was born.

Today Hands rules a fiefdom of 70 professionals in Nomura's Principle Finance Group. It has completed \$11 billion (£6.8 billion) worth of deals, the latest being this week's £1.2 billion takeover of Intrepid, the country's biggest, but troubled, pub chain. In a week or so it may also have William Hill's string of betting shops in its portfolio.

If imitation is the highest compliment, then Hands must be feeling smug. Not only is the exercise proving extremely profitable for Nomura, but every bank worth its salt is now playing this asset game (at least 35). He points out, though, that the long-term Japanese philosophy gives Nomura the edge.

Hands made his own conversion while working on a mobile home

Risk-taker puts Nomura's money where his mouth is

deal for Goldman in the sweating heat of Arizona. "It was 120 degrees in the shade, I had a thick English suit on and I lost the deal because the rival bank was prepared to take the risk. I suddenly felt that working as an agent I never put my balls on the line and that this was a lower form of existence than if I put my money — or the bank's — where my mouth was."

A banker with a soul? Surely not. Hands gets excited now. "Remember that Brothers programme in the Seventies? They were merchant bankers who put money in real companies. They cared about the business."

Now Hands gets the chance to get his hands mucky — he is on the board of several of the companies in which Nomura has invested. "It's like being a headmaster. It shows management that we really care. That is empowering for some, but some find it terrifying."

Hands, bored by selling eurobonds, had tried to sell his securitisation idea to Goldman but it dared not tread, so, with its permission, he went out hawking his idea. Selling was not new. In his gap-year,

IN THE HOT SEAT

GUY HANDS: CV
Born 1959.
Judd Grammar School, Tonbridge.
1978 PPE Mansfield College, Oxford.
1982 Goldman Sachs.
1994 Nomura.
Now: managing director of Nomura International's Principle Finance Group

while waiting to go up to Oxford, the young Hands spent weeks wandering icy North London streets selling encyclopaedia. He still remembers the 45p doors slammed in his face, but he sold one set.

He switched to door-to-door selling of local artists' work and at one time had 50 salesmen working for him. This looked so promising at Oxford that he opened a gallery. For Art's Sake, and even took a year out to run it. A nasty property lease and a collapsing building left him with £40,000 of debts, which he cleared, but a taste for risk.

Hands continued his degree, getting a good Third. It's only now that Hands drops his bombshell. He is severely dyslexic. So severely, that his ten-year-old son was spelling better than him two years ago. At school he had to take the sciences although he would have preferred English — and he was examined verbally for his finals. "It would have been too difficult for them to wade through my writing," he says, grinning widely.

His dyslexia is still a beast to slay — a driving force to what is a dogged stubbornness. At 16 he read an *Economist* article about Goldman — mythical hard-working and anti-establishment — and decided he would work there. Oxford was the only place he applied to.

for himself, reading acres of proofs for prospectuses and business plans. "I think everything I do is driven by the fact that I didn't work hard at school but I must achieve. I would have liked to have been a writer or even an actor — but my pronunciation is bad too, so instead I decided to make money."

And money he makes. Hands swallows hard when asked how many millions, so does the PR woman who is taping. They swallow in unison and nod and say it is a house rule not to comment. Rumourmongers reckon he may have pocketed as much as £12 million last year.

But he doesn't like spending money — his ruffled, slightly overgrown choirboy appearance and nondescript suit are evidence of that. He lives modestly in Sevenoaks with four children, a Classics-educated wife, a black Labrador and drives a Volvo — not the picture of the usual investment banker who rolls off the Goldman sausage machine.

This year he will have taken only ten days' leave and after 14-hour days he takes work home too. He does admit to the occasional 26-hour flight to Hawaii for holidays. "It's the only place they can't get me." Finally he reveals a liking for fine wines, and a small cellar and, when his wife allows, a passion for extremely loud punk music.

MARGARETA PAGANO



Some say Guy Hands earned £12 million last year

The 'Ed and Charlie show' looks behind the spin at the Treasury

Janet Bush examines where real power lies in economic policymaking

It was a taste of things to come. On April 3, the day that Labour launched its election manifesto, Ed Balls, Gordon Brown's chief economic adviser, gave a graphic picture of how the Treasury mandarins would be expected to bend to the will of the new Chancellor.

He was talking, intense but smiling with the excitement of it all, to a fly-on-the-wall documentary crew from Scottish Television about the windfall tax. It was far more than an idea, he said. Brown and his team meant to arrive at the Treasury on May 2 with the legislation drafted, the legal position sewn up, all the numbers crunched, the documents prepared. They would arrive on May 2, drop it on the Permanent Secretary's desk and say "Now, implement it!"

Scottish Television has made two films to be shown on the coming two Tuesdays. The first follows Brown's team in the



Charlie Whelan and Gordon Brown tell the press what to think. Their methods will be seen in two documentaries

final months of the election campaign to the triumphant morning of May 2. The second, which started filming only hours later from inside the Treasury as the new Chancellor was clapped in by ecstatic civil servants, provides us with an astonishingly frank glimpse of Brown's team in power.

The Treasury has never been subject to such outside scrutiny. The mandarins, used to the subtle business of private ad-

vice being given behind closed doors, were pretty dismayed when they realised the extent of the intrusion. But the new Chancellor had given his personal permission to a documentary film-maker with whom he had worked during his days as a researcher at Scottish Television.

We are the Treasury is perhaps one of the riskier exercises undertaken by Brown in his drive for open government. Just as the Chancellor's coterie of special advisers and spin-doctors have been trying to play down persistent rumours of bad blood between them and the "official" Treasury and the Bank of England, the film threatens to lay all the simmering hostility open to view.

Weeks before the film was due to be shown, enough was rumoured of its contents to have long-serving Treasury mandarins and the top brass at the Bank of England on flustered red alert. The title *We are the Treasury* vividly sums up the dominant role now played in the life of the institution by the small team of advisers that the new Chancellor brought with him from Opposition. Ed Balls, once a leader writer for the *Financial Times* and now the Chancellor's chief economic adviser, and Charlie Whelan, his canny and combative press secretary, are so omnipresent that it could as easily be called the "Ed and Charlie show".

The film takes us through Brown's dramatic first few weeks in office, including the momentous decision to give the

Bank of England independence and, within days, to strip away its supervisory powers. It was well documented at the time that Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, was upset with what he felt was the way the supervision news was sprung on him without proper consultation. It was also alleged — but never proven — that the special advisers wanted to use his public displeasure to ease him out of his job.

But the merest whiff that Mr George, popular in the City and regarded as a safe pair of hands, might be under threat was enough to mobilise the financial markets in his defence. The Governor seemed safe and Mervyn King, the Bank's director of economics and a trusted and true Bank insider, was appointed as one of two Deputy Governors.

This semi-public spat is now dismissed as history by the Chancellor's men. However, the discontent rumbled on for quite some time. Negotiations between the Bank and the Treasury on the drafting of the Bank of England Bill were so sour during one spell in the summer that there was talk of virtual non-cooperation, of a mood close to volcanic.

In the documentary, Ed Balls is believed to have been captured on camera being less than complimentary to the Governor in those early days. The hatchet may have since been buried, but Mr George is not likely to be comfortable for history to be rerun on film in such a public way. Nor are the Treas-

ury mandarins likely to thrill to a portrait of power so centralised in Mr Brown's private office. Many privately complain that they do not feel involved in policymaking, many are still licking their wounds from the loss of the power to decide interest rates and, with it, their jealously guarded role of economic forecasting.

One of the most concrete manifestations of change is that the top-level post of Treasury chief economic adviser, currently held by Sir Alan Budd, is effectively being downgraded. Sir Alan has long been one of a triumvirate of grade two civil servants who serve under Sir Terry Burns, the Permanent Secretary.

This year, Steve Robson was promoted to swell this count to four, but the number will fall to three again when Sir Alan Budd, who has long been one of a triumvirate of grade two civil servants who serve under Sir Terry Burns, the Permanent Secretary.

Treasury insiders wonder whether there will be many takers for this job given Ed Balls's role. All of this has become a favourite focus for gossip in City dining rooms and Whitehall drinking holes. There is a measure of sheer fascination mixed with a queasiness about what it all means for the established pattern of power.

But the advent of this film portrayal, which will offer con-

crete grist to the gossip mill, does not seem to worry Mr Brown's men much. Word has it that they thoroughly enjoyed seeing the rough cut. Why should they worry? Their takeover of the Treasury has not been a random happening based on force of personality, but rather a strategy as carefully planned as everything else about Labour's accession to power. Their assumption of centralised control of the Treasury from inside has been a brilliant entryist tactic of which the Militant Tendency would have been proud.

Downing Street apparently believed taking decisive control of the Treasury was an absolute must if Gordon Brown was to push through his radical agenda of new openness and modernisation of Whitehall's most powerful department.

Successive Labour administrations always felt that their electoral Achilles' heel was economic and that they were always threatened by the mandarins who had a visceral distrust of old Labour tax and spend policies, now resolutely junked. Time and again, Labour governments responded by trying to establish alternative, more sympathetic economic power bases in an attempt to control what they often regarded as the malign influence of the Treasury: the Central Policy Review Staff, the Department of Economic Affairs and the National Economic Development Council. All failed to secure a lasting power base.

This time, Labour decided to take control from within to try to ensure that the mandarins are harnessed closely to the Chancellor's agenda.

There has been some resistance, particularly, it is believed, among senior Treasury officials. The sense of unease is, of course, partly a generational problem, although it is thought that Sir Terry Burns, perennially rumoured to be contemplating life outside the Treasury, wants to stay and will. And many more junior officials are emboldened by work on a new agenda, excited to be part of the process of modernisation.

It is to the credit of a determined and confident new Chancellor that Scottish Television has been allowed a fly-eye view of this tumultuous chapter in the life of the Treasury, even if it means hurting a few well-established egos.

Out of the Shadows is shown on ITV on Tuesday, September 30, at 10.40pm. We are the Treasury is shown in the same slot on Tuesday, October 7.

Heat is on for computer chip manufacturer

Oliver August reports on a US federal investigation into Intel

Judgment day may at last have dawned for Intel, the US microchip monopolist. For years it has been riding roughshod over market rules and used its dominant position to keep out competition. More than 80 per cent of computer chips worldwide come from the Intel stable. Few of its customers can afford to disavow the Silicon Valley scion by buying from one of its few and meagre rivals.

Computer manufacturers have repeatedly complained that Intel threatened punishment whenever the issue of competition came up. The chip shop's favoured weapon is to hint that delivery times for existing orders might slip. In the computer industry, where fashions are more short-lived than in the clothing trade, even short delays can be fatal while litigation would take years.

Now the Federal Trade Commission, the US anti-trust authority, has stepped in. It is already investigating Intel's \$400 million (£247 million) acquisition of Chips & Technology, a graphics specialist. The new inquiry will be broader. The FTC subpoena says it will look at "unfair and deceptive practices in or affecting commerce by acting to monopolise".

Analysis say any number of computer companies could have instigated the inquiry. Linley Gwennap, editor of *Microprocessor Report*, said: "There is no shortage of people who could be behind this. Intel is the major supplier of virtually any semiconductor technology to the PC market." One company particularly keen to see Intel suffer is Digital Equipment Corp. It is involved in a nasty patent infringement suit against Intel and has accused Intel of monopolistic practices. However, the knives are not only out in corporate offices but also among the end-users of Intel equipment.

The Internet features a whole magazine, frequently updated and read by eight million people, devoted to slating Intel. Fury was ignited by the constant re-engineering of products and swapping around of gimmicks. Intel, along with Microsoft, its soft-

ware brother, stands accused of forcing consumers into a vicious circle of having to buy new products every year just to stay level with technology. Everyone who has bought a PC or laptop in recent years will have shared the experience of possessing the best computer available at Christmas, and having an ugly piece of dinosaur equipment in the new year. New machines are suddenly twice as fast, four times more powerful and infinitely more compatible.

Crusading on these people's behalf is Jason Walter. He writes in the latest edition of *386 Monthly News*: "As many new users and upgraders are opening the boxes to their brand new Pentium II-based systems, another group of people sit angrily as Intel has shut the door on the hopes that Pentium Pro users will be able to upgrade to the new Pentium II. We must ask the question of what is a reasonable timeframe for a standard to be supported, what kind of migration path should be available and when, and what incremental upgrade is just too small to be useful?"

So far, public criticism has failed to dent Intel's prospects. Its shares are trading at an astronomical price/earnings ratio of 25. A 1991 FTC investigation ended in a whitewash for the company. Since then its competitors have strengthened slightly.

Earlier this week *386 Monthly News* reported: "Towards the end of the year, both Cyrix and Advanced Micro Devices will start to unveil new chip technologies that could well raise the competitive pressure on chip giant Intel." Rival chips already come close to Intel's performance and cost up to 30 per cent less. Computer manufacturers such as IBM and Compaq have agreed to use these chips in their low-cost consumer products.

But the sprouting competition has done little to sour Wall Street's love affair with Intel. Over the past year its shares rose from \$40 to \$100. On Tuesday, Intel won another endorsement. DJI, the investment bank with Wall Street's highest-rated research arm, upgraded its Intel rating.

Here Dyke goes

IT IS known as the embourgeoisification of the terraces, the middle classes flocking to the football grounds. Everyone in the public eye has to have a favourite football team, in the same way that they need a favourite Spice Girl. A non-executive directorship has even more cachet than a season ticket — ask Ken Clarke, a man with years of experience of playing the common man and now a fixture in the directors' box at Nottingham Forest.

Latest recruit to the business of football is Greg Dyke, Manchester United fan man and boy — aren't they all? He is joining the United board as non-executive director. Dyke, 50, was chairman of ITV Sport, for four years, so he knows a bit about the game. United is on the point of signing a TV deal to create a dedicated channel for all those sabbos who need a daily helping of

their idols. Dyke is chairman and chief executive of Pearson Television. A marriage made in heaven. Except that the United deal is widely expected to be with BSkyB and Granada, and not with Pearson. And Dyke may not be there much longer, if rumours of a bust-up with Marjorie Scardino, Pearson chief executive, are true. And they are true.

□ DETAILS of a "refurbishment opportunity" — estate agent-speak for a clipped out old office block — reach me. Situated in sunny Lambeth, 270,000 sq ft, 21 storeys, with basement car parking. But does my memory fail me, or was Century House not once the headquarters of MI5? That is the one we are allowed to know about, as against MI6, whose existence, like the Post Office Tower, was once a state secret. The agents confirm it. Ideal for



the booming flat market, what with all those sound-proofed rooms, and the sunny airdials on the roof would come in handy for satellite TV. Just one problem, the name. So, sort of, naff and millennial. My informant suggests Spooks Corner. I rather like Dunbuggin.

Own show

MORE news from the acronym-ridden advertising group GGT. A few weeks ago I reported the resignation of Linda Kaplan-Thaler, the creative supremo at Wells Rich Greene, GGT's New York arm. GGT said Ms Kaplan-Thaler would stay as a consultant while she wrote an opera. Now it seems that she is doing neither. Instead she has formed her own agency, imaginatively called Kaplan-Thaler and Co, and clients are already following. More worries for poor Mike Greenlees, I fear.

Talking shop

I AM invited to the Royal Society of the Arts for a conference arranged by the Green Alliance. "Changing Consumer Choices" will debate how Government and industry can promote sustainable consumption, and how manufacturers and retailers can best

play their part in educating the consumer and saving the planet. A stellar cast list of speakers include Rik Bjerregaard, whom you will all know as EU Commissioner for Environment, Nuclear Safety and Civil Protection and whose very existence, I can tell you, allows me to sleep easily in my bed. Plus Michael Meacher, our Environment Minister, and the heads of the UK Ecotelling Board and the Energy Saving Trust. Just one thing missing. Not a single manufacturer, not one solitary retailer.

Flag waving

ADDDING to the crowd at the summit of Mount Everest for next spring's climbing season is Lewis McNaught, though, Halfway up Everest is the flag of the fund manager Perpetual. McNaught intends to tear it down and replace it with his own.

MARTIN WALLER



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NEWS

Hague ready to abandon peers

William Hague is preparing to abandon the Tories' longstanding opposition to Labour plans to strip hereditary peers of their voting rights.

The unexpected move, which would mark the biggest policy shift since Mr Hague became leader, would put him on a new collision course with the Tory old guard who have always defended the hereditary principle. Pages 1, 22

EMU reports help stock market surge

Reports claiming that the Government is preparing for an early entry into a European single currency pushed the stock market to a record high, but caused the pound to plunge. The FTSE 100 closed up 160.8, at 5226.3. Pages 1, 27, 31

War crimes charges

A 77-year-old retired British Rail worker has been charged with war crimes in Nazi-occupied Eastern Europe, police said. Page 1

Tobacco ban plea

The Government is to press for a Europe-wide ban on the advertising of tobacco. Page 2

Assisi earthquakes

Two earthquakes in central Italy killed at least nine people and badly damaged priceless frescoes in Assisi. Page 3

Burglary with violence

A self-taught antiques expert who used violence to force his accomplices to burglarise victims was jailed for 30 years. Page 5

Two Fat Ladies

America has greeted the arrival of *Two Fat Ladies* with the polite, nervous smile of someone offered an unidentifiable, pungent forkful of a foreign cuisine. Pages 16, 23

Labour goes for a gay old time

The Labour leadership has approved a gay night at the party conference hotel where Tony Blair and the rest of the Cabinet are staying. The event will rival the more raucous attractions of the traditional Welsh and Scottish evenings. Page 1

Trouble on two wheels

Anthony Adams was fined for cycling "furiously" through Cambridge — and cyclists are under the spotlight. Page 13

Party time for party

What a difference an election makes. Next week's Labour Party conference has become the most in demand social and political gathering of the year. Page 18

Winnie's victory

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela has won the right to give evidence in public at the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Pages 16, 23

Sumatra crash

All 234 people on board a Garuda Indonesia Airbus A300 airliner died when it crashed in thick haze on Sumatra. Page 17

Fugitive killer held

Ben Macintyre unfolds the saga of an American hippie-era guru who is fighting extradition. Page 20



Tetsuo the hippopotamus examines his Japanese audience yesterday from the safety of his water-filled glass tank in Tennōji Zoo in Osaka

NEWS FEATURES

English vineyards: English wine-makers are predicting a great vintage after a long summer of almost perfect conditions. Page 8

Double role: Since the general election, Tony Blair's wife has had to be two people at once: Cherie Booth the Queen's Counsel, and Cherie Blair, First Lady to an increasingly presidential Prime Minister. Page 19

Usher trouble: Mo'Nique doesn't think the Rev Ian Paisley will come to the talks, "but that doesn't mean you don't try". Page 21

OPINION

Foodie rush in: To enter EMU at all would be to hazard Britain's prosperity on a project which is politically flawed. To enter in the wake of the first wave would be to make a mockery of the claim that Labour's position is pragmatic. Tony Blair would never be forgiven. Page 23

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: I am against primitive punishments. I am against them whether the victim is male or female, British or foreign. Page 27

Tim Haines: Last month, Labour marked 100 days in office. It did so in a carnival atmosphere. William Hague endured a rather less rapturous anniversary. One can only hope that Fionn has a better honeymoon. Page 22

LETTERS

Tory reform: relevance of the Church; the importance of inquiries. Page 23

BUSINESS

Building societies: Almost half of Northern Rock Building Society members have sold their shares before the start of dealing. Page 27

Takeover bid: Shares in T&N, the components group laid low by asbestos claims, soared 60p to 242½p after a takeover approach from Federal Mogul. Page 27

Markets: The FTSE 100 index rose 160.8 points, to close at 5226.3. The sterling index fell from 101.8 to 99.7 after a fall from \$1.6263 to \$1.6053 and from DM2.8750 to DM2.8324. Page 31

SPORT

Golf: Jesper Parnevik levelled the score at 3-2 after the opening fourballs in the Ryder Cup. Page 33

Crickets: Phil Tufnell, the England spin bowler, faces disciplinary action after failing to supply a specimen for a drug test. Page 41

Tennis: Pete Sampras reached the semi-finals of the Grand Slam Cup with an easy victory over Jonas Björkman. Page 40

NATURE NOTES

Peter Brookes. Page 22

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

David Blunkett: Labour's Education Secretary is ready to fight. Page 8
 Insider dealing: What did Washington know about the bomb plot? Page 16
 Fashion: For all the glamour of the catwalk, behind the scenes casual dress is the norm. Page 48
 Rich kids. Page 25

THEO

The People: We, the People are ready to conquer America. Page 6
 Just life: Backstage at the National with Paul Rhys. Page 10
 Paul's rage: Mike Paterson finds Paul Draper railing against the world. Page 12

WEEKEND

Ordure, ordure: Michael Gove and The Times's Peter Brookes. Page 1
 Jamaican death: Tunku Varadarajan mourns the loss of a friend. Page 3
 Favourite shop: Lady Cobbold's CRA. Page 4
 Trouser dilemma: The latest wide-legged styles are the answer. Page 5

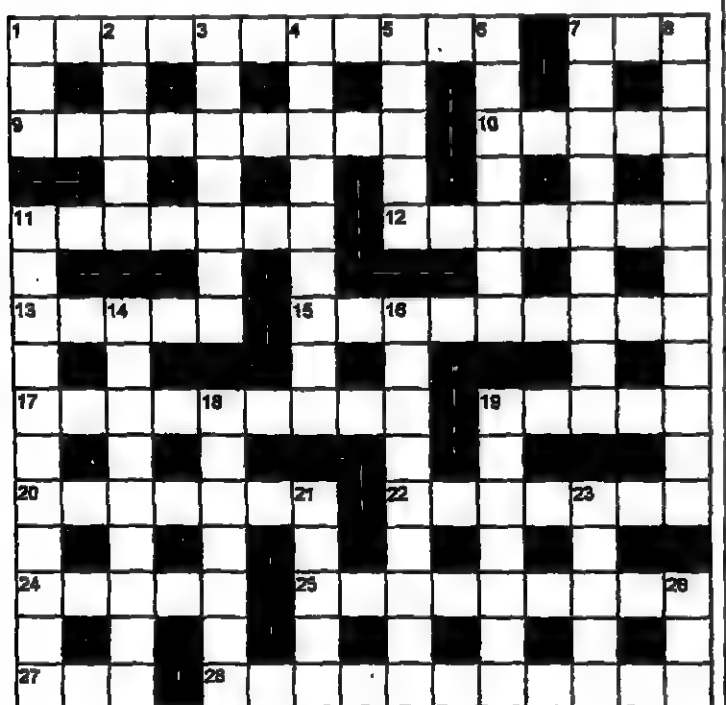
Vision

Full seven-day Radio & TV guide
 Two Fat Ladies. Page 13
 Paul Hoggart. Page 2
 The Arts: The ENO production, 10pm. BBC2, today

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,596

A £30 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- 1 A strong company needs backing for a musical? Yes! (11).
- 7 Glove black spot (3).
- 9 Put plant — the alternative judge's put in (9).
- 10 One in bed reciting numbers of sheep (5).
- 11 Looking to compete with political group (7).
- 12 A person I'd announced as a literary giant (3-4).
- 13 Very well-conned sort of prize has a twist in the tail (5).
- 15 Giving more in a ball-game, one about to be over (9).
- 17 Turning out part of army, head of state has little time (9).
- 19 A dim recollection about start of Handel's "Messiah" (5).
- 20 Case in which PM once put clothes (7).
- 22 A minor beating? Exploit a bit of advice, making comeback (3-1-5).
- 24 Friend has no right to make one shudder (5).
- 25 Cocktail with a kick — sick female comes staggering in (5-4).
- 27 Hairy beast has girl in a spin (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,590



LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: R. Jukes, Wighwick, Wolverhampton; P. Savill, Chew Stoke, Bristol; K. Rowland, Embleton, Northumberland; D. Love, Claygate, Essex; S. J. Hughes, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich, Suffolk.

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HOURS OF DARKNESS


TODAY
 Sun rises 6:55 am Sun sets 6:55 pm
 Moon sets 9:07 pm Moon rises 2:27 am
 New moon October 1
 London 6:48 pm to 6:56 am
 Bristol 6:54 pm to 7:06 am
 Edinburgh 6:59 pm to 7:12 am
 Manchester 6:53 pm to 7:07 am
 Perthshire 7:00 pm to 7:19 am

TOMORROW


Sun rises 6:56 pm Sun sets 6:55 pm
 Moon sets 9:07 pm Moon rises 2:27 am
 New moon October 1
 London 6:45 pm to 6:56 am
 Bristol 6:51 pm to 7:06 am
 Edinburgh 6:56 pm to 7:12 am
 Manchester 6:50 pm to 7:07 am
 Perthshire 7:00 pm to 7:19 am

HIGH TIDES


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SIMON BARNES
On Dettori
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WEEKEND MONEY
Where the super rich really, really count
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go
Can you do your weekly shop on a bike?
PAGES 45-49

THE TIMES SATURDAY SPORT

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

THE RYDER CUP: A DAY OF FORTUNE ON NERVE-BACKING OPENING DAY

Europeans produce level best

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, AT VALDERRAMA

EUROPE and the United States were as evenly matched as anybody could want when darkness ended the rain-delayed first day of the 32nd Ryder Cup here yesterday. After the morning four-balls had finished 2-2, the afternoon foursomes were perfectly balanced, too, with the score standing at 3-3 when play was suspended.

Colin Montgomerie and a clearly inspired Bernhard Langer took revenge for being beaten by Tiger Woods and Mark O'Meara in the morning four-balls by storming to victory by 5 and 3 in the foursomes. Montgomerie was a man transformed after a brief stop for lunch. His erratic play of the morning was gone and, perhaps because of this, he smiled a lot. He and Langer were five under par when they beat Woods and O'Meara in the gathering gloom.

Hardly had the applause for this victory died down than Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen survived a rally by Costantino Rocca and José María Olazábal. The Europeans won the 17th with a birdie but, at the 18th, Olazábal drove into the cork trees that line the hole and the ball bizarrely ended in a waste bin. After dropping the ball, Rocca hit an heroic second to within ten feet. Olazábal missed. Hoch holed and the US pair, who had never been behind in the match, had won by the slenderest possible margin.

As the day wore on, so it became more and more typical of the closeness of modern Ryder Cups. There were many moments when it looked as though the US might edge into a clear lead, but again and again Europe fought back.

Like a general in a medieval battle, Severiano Ballesteros, the Europe captain, was to be seen roaming the course wearing an earpiece that told him what was going on elsewhere. He was far more conspicuous in his presence than Tom Kite, the US captain, and was fulfilling his promise that he would be a hands-on captain.

In the morning four-balls, the fearsome Valderrama course was humbled. Olazábal and Rocca were a generous six under par in defeating Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson, while Jesper Parnevik and Per-Ulrik Johansson, despite taking an

excruciating five hours and 42 minutes — the longest four-ball match in Ryder Cup history — went round in 64, to claim a famous victory.

After lunch Kite brought in fresh faces, pairing Hoch with Janzen and Justin Leonard with Jeff Maggert, thereby giving every one of his team a game on the first day. Ballesteros sent out all but one of the men that he had used in the four-balls for the afternoon foursomes. Johansson was

It does not rain often in Spain at the end of September, but it certainly did yesterday morning. A torrential storm hit the Costa del Sol just after 5am. Within half an hour bunkers were full of water, the course was unplayable and play was delayed for nearly two hours.

No sooner had it started than Rocca and Olazábal dovetailed as smoothly as Ballesteros had hoped they would when he put them together, citing their confidence in each other and the fact that they looked comfortable together. Such an insight was borne out when the two players recovered from being two down after 11 holes to score Europe's first point after a remarkable run of three birdies and an eagle in four holes, starting at the 13th.

Westwood, though, ran into the pressure of the Ryder Cup in much the same way as a runaway train hits the buffers. After two birdies in his first three holes of the morning four-ball, the second of which enabled him and Faldo to take a one-hole lead over Fred Couples and Brad Faxon, his game disintegrated. He contributed little to the partnership for 12 holes.

Of greater concern to Ballesteros and the Europe team was the poor play of Montgomerie, who hit only three fairways and four greens all morning. After declaring a number of times recently how much he wanted to play, Woods it was ironic that when he did he found Woods off form, yet was even more off his game himself. Montgomerie's driving was very wayward — an uncharacteristic fault that has bothered him for much of the year.

There is something fitting in an event such as this when, match after match ends on a crescendo. Three of the four morning matches were settled on the 18th green. The excitement centred first on the sight of Mickelson missing a six-footer that would have halved the top match. This was followed by Faldo failing to hole from ten feet for a birdie that would have won Europe the hole and halved the match. And then Parnevik hit another crisp approach, holed from nine feet for a second successive birdie to ensure Europe's second point of the morning.

dropped for Ignacio Garrido. Staying true to seven of his players was a decision that may have been forced upon Ballesteros by Ian Woosnam's poor form, or it may have been his choice. It may backfire over the course of this event. For now it is sufficient to say that two of Ballesteros's oldest players, Langer, who is a few days past his fortieth birthday, and Nick Faldo, who was 40 in July, seemed inspired by the occasion.

Faldo, in particular, was like a man reborn and one stroke in the afternoon foursomes demonstrated how much better he was playing than he had in so many strokeplay events this year. A most delicate bunker shot on the 7th in the foursomes set up a victory on that hole to level the match against Leonard and Maggert. On the 8th it was Faldo's shot to no more than two feet that enabled his partner, Lee Westwood, to make a birdie and take a one-hole lead.



Parnevik salutes the putt that gave Europe a share of the four-balls yesterday at Valderrama

Blurring the image of a charmless man of steel

This week at Valderrama, Nick Faldo wondered aloud how the course would look with 30,000 people on it. "There were only 4,000 out there today," he said. "Was it 4,000?" "More like 8,000," someone volunteered. Faldo put his hands behind his head and laughed. "Well, 4,000 went round with my match."

At that moment of pure typical bumptiousness, I realised why Faldo continues to inspire such ambivalence after 21 years in the game. You can't love this man, because he's charmless. But at the same time, he's a hero. Faldo's admirable sporting qualities include toughness and pluck and fantastic talent. He has won three Open Championships and three Masters, and this is his eleventh Ryder Cup. Not surprising that you'd rather be one of his 4,000 than anybody else's.

Around Ryder Cup followers, of course, you only have to say the words "one down and two to play," and people go all misty-eyed, because at the last match, in 1995, such was the singles position from which Faldo recovered to birdie the 18th, beat Curtis Strange, turn the match and earn the undying love of Severiano Ballesteros. Faldo got up and down from 90 yards and it was fab.

But if "one down and two to play" paints an acceptable picture of the man, the words

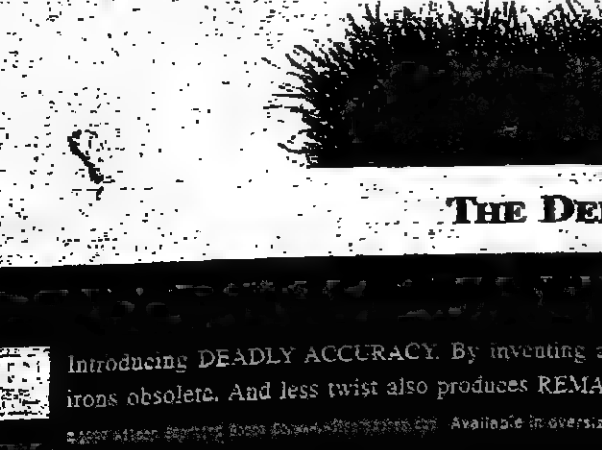
LYNNE TRUSS

"midlife crisis" get a less positive response, because it sounds judgmental. But why is a midlife crisis a disgrace? It happens to most people — sometimes it's even a good thing — and, anyway, Faldo has all the symptoms. In the past two years he has left his wife, turned 40 and chosen to live in the United States with a youthful girlfriend who has a silly made-up name beginning with B and who looks like Miss America. Did you know that when a man leaves his wife, in 75 per cent of cases it's for a woman with longer hair?

That all this upheaval is reflected in Faldo's golf is understandable. Form in this sport is so precarious that the Chaos Theory might have been built on it: a butterfly beats its wings in the Southern Ocean and Tiger Woods misses a putt at Valderrama. Faldo's concentration is legendary, yet his tendency at the Open this year to consider each shot as if silently reciting the Lord's Prayer (and then throwing in *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*) must betray something of his state of mind.

Nevertheless, Faldo strikes a glamorous figure. Being built for athletics and 6ft 11in (or is it 7ft 2in?) is hardly a disadvantage. Between the clubhouse and the 1st tee, he strides at breathtaking speed through the adoring fans, randomly snatching preferred pens and baseball caps and signing them. If the fan wants his hat and pen back, he must wander beyond the bystanders, keeping pace. Faldo has a large face and looks like Harrison Ford. Moreover, when dressed in the navy blouson of the Europe Ryder Cup team, he looks like Harrison Ford in a really good cop movie.

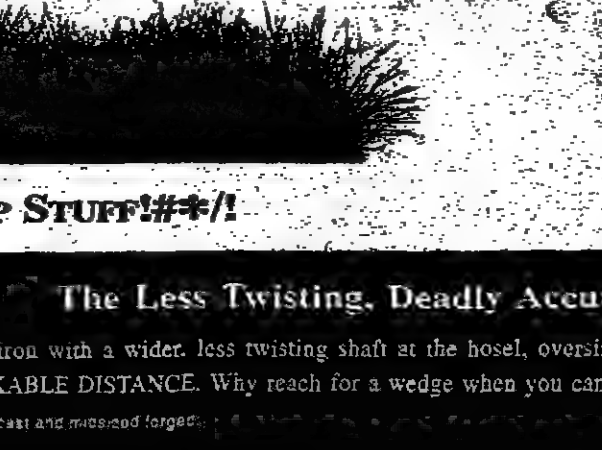
No one knows yet who will be the hero of this Ryder Cup, but if it comes down to mental resilience, midlife crisis or not, Faldo is unlikely to let his team down. I wish he'd halved his first match yesterday with an heroic putt, but I'm sure he wishes it more. Tom Lehman says you can tell from Faldo's body language that he believes he's the only player on the course — but at the Ryder Cup it's different. He just knows he's the most important player on the course.



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Style of United States challenge underlined by authority of complementary partnership...

Woods forces Montgomerie to cut up rough

FROM MICHAEL CALVIN AT VALDERRAMA

TIGER WOODS uncoiled with a languid grace that disguised the power generated by his swing. He looked into the distance, saw his drive describe a gentle arc into the heart of the 5th fairway and laughed. It seemed ungracious to inquire whether he was being intimidated by Colin Montgomerie.

Europe's leading player, next on to the elevated tee, carved his drive into deep rough. His eyes bulged, as if he had swallowed a lazy, late-summer wasp, and he kicked out at fallen leaves from the cork trees that framed the nearby waterfall. It seemed indecent to ask his opinion of Tiger's temperament.

Woods was enjoying his Ryder Cup debut hugely. He had just made his first birdie, to give himself and Mark O'Meara a lead that they never lost. The only birdie Montgomerie and Bernhard Langer made in their four-ball match yesterday was conceded to them on the 10th green, when a 30-foot putt by O'Meara guaranteed the Americans a 3 and 2 victory.

Inevitably, a television interviewer immediately cornered Woods and brought up Montgomerie's credentials as a cheerleader. Was the win a direct response to the Scot's strictures about the suitability of his game to Valderrama's verdant acres? Tiger took his lead from his partner, who was on the other side of the camera, shaking his head with theatrical intensity.

"No," Woods said, firmly, with a forbidding glare. "We just showed up and played our own game. We hit some loose shots but got away with them because we made some key birdies. It was just a case of grinding it out." O'Meara beamed, like the surrogate father he has quickly become.

Montgomerie was not available for comment. He commandeered a buggy to take him directly to the practice ground, where his wife delivered a hasty sandwich as he prepared for the afternoon rematch in the foursomes. Since he had spent more time in the trees than Valderrama's resident nature consultant, the self-imposed punishment was entirely logical.

Woods, meanwhile, had acquired a bodyguard, who escorted him through the crowds to the United States team-room. It was a stark reminder of the flip side of fame. He will never have the



CUP DETAILS TODAY

Morning
Foursomes: To complete: N Faldo and J Westwood (2 up) v J Leonard and J Maggert (after 16 holes); J Parnell and J Garrido v T Lehman and P Mickelson (level after 12)

4 four-balls
Afternoon — 4 foursomes

TOMORROW
Morning — 12 singles

luxury of being judged solely by the simple values of sport. He is a symbol of cultural diversity, a commodity.

At times yesterday, he had the demeanour of a child released on a long-awaited school trip. When O'Meara hit a perfect eight-iron close to the flag at the 5th, Woods held his hand as they walked down the fairway. They live close to each other, in Orlando, Florida, and regularly travel together on the USPGA Tour.

"We asked to play with each other," O'Meara said. "We just got on well. He's a good kid, a good friend, and I have tremendous respect for his game. He has an unbelievable talent and realises he is going to be around for a long time. He's been telling me how

"I've grown up a lot in the last 12 months," Woods said. "This has been the longest year ever, man. I've had to change as a person, because I've had to deal with so many things that a 21-year-old doesn't normally have to deal with. That's all part of the challenge of accepting I'm a somebody out here."

Life's little lessons can be harsh. Had Woods's parents been around when the gloom descended on Valderrama yesterday evening, they might have reminded him of a couple of homilies. Pride invariably precedes a fall, and he who laughs last, like Montgomerie, tends to laugh longest.

Woods was playing poorly and he and O'Meara were three down at the turn, on route to a 5 and 3 defeat. His character had changed, along with the momentum of the match. Again he looked a callow, sullen, youth.

"I've grown up a lot in the last 12 months," Woods said. "This has been the longest year ever, man. I've had to change as a person, because I've had to deal with so many things that a 21-year-old doesn't normally have to deal with. That's all part of the challenge of accepting I'm a somebody out here."

Woods and O'Meara toast victory on the 10th

Woods and O'Meara toast victory on the 10th

Captains struggle in face of leading questions

ROB HUGHES



Severiano Ballesteros is no longer the only one losing sleep over this Ryder Cup. The ferocity of the storm that blew in from Africa yesterday, lashing the coastline below Valderrama and dislocating everyone's expectations, may have seemed made for the Europe captain, who, dicing with his team strategy and his pairings as he once dined with the elements of his own game, came up against the beacon of calm that is his opposite number, Tom Kite.

For hours their attempts to take a decisive lead for Europe or the United States were tossed in a tempest of a different kind: what can captains really do when they are in the hands of a dozen other men, when it is the talents, the temperaments and the stamina when exposed to fierce competition that distinguishes individuals under duress?

From the very beginning the different leadership styles were evident. Ballesteros, discharging restless energy, stalked the 40 yards between the practice green and the 1st tee, fidgeting, swotting mercilessly at an insect that dared to settle on the nape of his neck, talking, cajoling, touching and settling himself into the role of compulsive media star.

You can take the club out of such a golfer's hands, but you cannot rub away the charisma, the hypnotic attraction between man and the camera that, in this case, was transmuting his efforts to 700 million viewers worldwide.

They were to see snatched moments of Ballesteros's effervescence, the manner in which he finds it impossible to leave alone the momentum of his team. Rarer would have



On the air: Kite, the United States captain, stays in touch with developments around the Valderrama course

been the camera shots of Kite, for he was a captain content, a smaller man in the physical sense and a far less obtrusive figure who sought the background rather than the limelight.

At the height of this fascinating temperamental pas de deux was an astonishing altercation between Ballesteros and Jesper Parnevik on the 12th green. Parnevik was one of the Spanish captain's wild cards, his own selections; but did he trust him entirely? From a distance of a few yards it seemed not, as Ballesteros hectoring the Swede, who subsequently two-putted the hole. Intensely poured forth from the captain's mouth, fire ignited in the Swede's eyes; and yet, by the end of the four-ball,

'Kite sought background rather than limelight'

there was gratitude between them.

At the 17th, the hole redesigned by Ballesteros himself, Parnevik received a firm handshake, a squeeze on the biceps, for his effort. And at Casa Club, the 18th, Parnevik, who played with his fellow Swede, Per-Ulrik Johansson, sank a putt of 18 feet to win the contest against the experienced Americans, Tom Lehman and Jim Furyk.

Afterwards, Parnevik spoke of the men who actually competed, and deliberately not one suspects, of his non-

playing captain. He admitted that Lehman, bolting a 60-yard pitch at the 15th and again putting the pressure on at the 18th, had fired his own competitive urge. He spoke of his partner, Johansson, knowing him so well that they could pull each other back from despair.

Ballesteros, though he surprisingly replaced Johansson with Ignacio Garrido, thereby increasing the Latin tempo in the late afternoon foursomes, spoke of the great comeback of the Swedes, which he admired as much as he did

the comeback of Costantino Rocca and José María Olazábal. "It is a pity," Ballesteros said with a chilling directness, "that Colin [Montgomerie] and Bernhard [Langer] were not able to catch the rhythm. We are as we started."

He was hardly that. By 5 o'clock in the afternoon, with hours still to go, Ballesteros had grown a heavy stubble, which itself had rivers of sweat and, together with the black hair matted on to his scalp, showed how oppressive the weather, as much as everything else, remained. Kite, on the other hand, rarely looked unruffled; a little peeved when shots were dropped or leads were surrendered. Continued on facing page

RESULTS FROM VALDERRAMA

EUROPE 3 UNITED STATES 3
Europe names first
Four-balls
J M Olazábal and C Rocca beat D Love and P Mickelson 1 hole
C Montgomerie and B Langer lost to T Woods and M O'Meara 3 and 2
N Faldo and J Westwood lost to P Cockles and S Faxon 1 hole
J Parnevik and P U Johansson beat T Lehman and J Furyk 1 hole
RESULT: Europe 3 United States 2

Foursomes
Langer and Montgomerie beat Woods and O'Meara 5 and 3
Olazábal and Rocca lost to S Hoch and J Janzen 1 hole
Faldo and Westwood 2 up on J Leonard and J Maggert (after 16 holes)
Parnevik and Garrido level with Lehman and Mickelson (after 12)
RESULT: Europe 1 United States 1 (with two games to finish because of bad light yesterday evening)

LATEST ODDS: Europe 6-4, United States 4-7, The 10-1 (William Hill)

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16/1 Russian Magic
18/1 Waypoint
20/1 Cosmic Prince
20/1 Emerging Market
20/1 Flamboyance
20/1 Tregaron
25/1 Jo Mell
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Trusting partner to be awesome at foursomes

Americans, by and large, do not think much of foursomes golf. "Scotch foursomes" they call it, condescendingly and with typically careless disregard for English usage.

They think that playing only every other shot is an effete pastime, a game for old men, perfectly all right for the limps but not at all the sort of activity that an all-American boy should be caught pursuing in daylight or without his parents' permission.

Consequently, a self-perpetuating myth has evolved that because Americans are not fond of this form of the game, they are no good at it in competitions such as the Ry-

der Cup. Wrong. They may regard it with slight contempt and in an ideal world they might rarely subject themselves to it, but they can play it, all right.

On the other hand, the Americans are eager to embrace the concept of four-ball golf.

It's a man's game, this. You play your own ball from 1st tee to 18th green in an exercise in the assumption of personal responsibility, but it is also incumbent on you to subsume yourself in the interests of the team, because you have a buddy alongside you who is doing the same thing.

Sometimes he might play a hole better than you and his

Europe should have an advantage over the United States in foursomes, says Mel Webb, but history shows otherwise

score will be the one that counts. But, hey, that's OK: we're a team here; we're all pulling for Uncle Sam; it's the American way.

The extension of that theory, therefore, is that the United States should be natural four-ball players who should, by all that is logical, prosper at it.

Wrong again. Since 1979, but not including this match, Europe and the United States have won five foursomes each, with six halved. Europe lead

their opponents 9-6 in four-balls, with three halved. For once, statistics come down on the white knight side of lies and damned lies.

The tactics and even the job requirements of the two forms of the game are similar, but with subtle differences. The ideal four-ball combination is a synergy between paso doble and fox-trot, flashy Ferrari and solid Volvo, haute couture and ready-to-wear serge.

The Latin-American prance-

ing in the bright red sports car and the Giorgio Armani attire will be the aggressive one, the one who will take on the angle of a dog-leg, the one who will fire his second shot at the green at a par-five. He is Jesper Parnevik, Costantino Rocca, Tiger Woods, Fred Couples.

His partner, the sedate hooper driving the family estate car while garbed in clothes from Marks and Sparks, will be Joe Steady, hitting the fairway, hitting the green, two putts for par. He is Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Tom Lehman, Mark O'Meara.

Foursomes are different in as much as inter-personal relationships form a vital part

of the pairing. Rocca and José María Olazábal like each other, trust each other, have games that dovetail together. O'Meara is like a surrogate father to Woods on the course. You have to be confident in your partner, know how to work together closer than you will ever have to in four-balls.

You also will need to calculate when to go for the green, who is to take the drive on what holes, who is the better putter.

All these things, and more, enter into the psychology of foursomes pairs. Above all, you must remember the most important foursomes component of all: never, ever, say "sorry".

PGA douses rumours about Open switch

FROM MEL WEBB

IT IS extraordinary how rumours can be ignited, spread with the rapidity of a bushfire and then be doused with equal speed. Three months ago it was suggested that the Open Championship next year might be moved from Royal Birkdale, and yesterday the flames were fanned again at Valderrama with talk that The Belfry was about to lose the right to stage the 2001 Ryder Cup and would be replaced by Loch Lomond Golf Club.

Constrained within the Birkdale saga were three mini-rumours: first, that the Birkdale greens, much criticised in the past, had no chance of being good enough for the club to stage an Open; second, that Royal Lytham and St Anne's had been put on stand-by; and third, that at Royal St George's, no tee-time bookings were being accepted for Open Championship

week. Wrong, all three of them.

It was not long before The Belfry situation was clarified, either. Sandy Jones, the executive director of the PGA, which has its headquarters at The Belfry and has the right to choose the 2001 venue, moved quickly to set the record straight.

"I'm mystified where this has come from," he said. "Moving the match away from The Belfry has never been an issue and never will be."

"It is unfair to both clubs that such suggestions should be made at this time," Jones has had informal discussions with the owner of Loch Lomond, Lyle Anderson, who is hoping the club will be considered as the venue for the match in 2009, but no formal application has yet been received.

Latin soulmates make ideal pair

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES

WHILE Severiano Ballesteros is on the sidelines, sort of, at Valderrama, José María Olazábal has found another soulmate to partner in the Ryder Cup. The dark, intense Spaniard from the Basque country and Costantino Rocca, the burly Italian from Bergamo, looked made for each other yesterday.

Ballesteros sent them over the top twice to rally the troops. In the four-balls they recovered from two down with six to play to beat Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson on the last green, spoiling Mickelson's 100 per cent Ryder Cup record with a burst of three birdies and an exhilarating eagle in the space of five holes. Then, after a quick sandwich, they set off in the foursomes, where they just lost a tight, untidy tussle with Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen. The Americans won with a birdie three at the last where Hoch holed from five feet.

Olazábal and Rocca are very good friends, which helps but is not vital for a successful pairing. They tend to eat dinner together if Rocca's family is not at a tournament with him and they understand each other perfectly, using a combination of Spanish and Italian with some English mixed in.

Temperamentally they are suited, for, despite the sultry Latin looks, they have no need for histrionics on the course. Against Hoch and Janzen, they lost the first two holes, but they were all square again by the 6th and went one up when they won the 7th with a birdie three. The crowd in the stands behind the green chanted "Chema, Chema", the diminutive for José María, when Olazábal hit a great second shot to three feet. Rocca received his own chant when he rolled the putt home nonchalantly, but there were no high-fives, just the ball given to his partner in a businesslike manner.

The Italian has his own band of fans — not all of them Italian — some of them wearing T-shirts and visors bearing the legend "Rocky Rocca". He avoided eye contact, to keep his concentration. The crowd was noisy and enthusiastic — but so silent during shots that often only the



Olazábal chips in as Rocca lines up a putt

whistling of the wind and the slight buzz of thousands of headphones tuned in to Radio 5 Live's coverage could be heard. It was a real melting-pot. There were Spaniards, Britons, Irish, French, Italian, German, Swedes, Danes and masses of Americans.

The moment of the day, when all the fans, whatever their allegiance, rose as one, arms hauled skywards by some invisible force, was Olazábal's eagle two at the 14th.

He hit a wedge from 133 yards to the elevated green, the ball unseen by him, pitched three feet short of the hole, then disappeared. The pandemonium was universal and the Europeans were back in the match, all square.

Rocca, who had started the revival with a birdie at the 13th, kept it going by holing a good putt for a half in three at the 15th and put his side one up, for good, with a birdie three at the next.

Viva los dos amigos.

... as Ballesteros tries to ignite defiance



Up in the air: Ballesteros follows the flightpath of an approach shot during his often frantic tour of duty

Continued from page 34
dered. More than direct when he questioned Ballesteros man-to-man at the 13th, yet still evading obvious contact with publicity.

One wondered how long this quiet American mused on the irony that, having meticulously read the weather patterns for 300 consecutive days, he faced a course sodden by a downpour more fierce than all in his experience.

He was operating the American axiom of "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". Having put together the teams, and more thoughtfully, it seemed, prepared fresh blood — with Scott Hoch and Lee Janzen tackling Olazábal and Rocca in the afternoon, while Justin Leonard and Jeff Maggert

'Ballesteros took the role of compulsive media star'

opposed Nick Faldo and Lee Westwood — the American captain at least offered the fresher minds and limbs. It was as if Kite, drawing on experience and on forethought, had anticipated the turnaround that put the teams back onto the fairways half-an-hour after walking off the "morning" four-balls.

"I'm tired but happy," Rocca had said in his short lunch break. Tired... had his captain not envisaged that this, particularly with a Latin like himself, might rebound? And speaking of rebounds,

there came a moment beyond the imagination of any captain, any controller. It was on the 8th hole that Phil Mickelson, teamed with Davis Love III, over-hit his approach shot. It propelled fearfully beyond the green, struck a woman on the back of the head, felled her in a gruesome pool of blood, and yet diverted the ball slightly fortuitously 30 feet back in the American's favour.

Mickelson strode swiftly up to apologise as the woman received medical treatment; his caddy handed the woman

a golf ball. The woman, who by chance was American, was still laid flat on the ground, still being comforted by attendants, when Love walked through the crowd, knelt down by her side, and presented her with another ball. "Oh, Davis..." the thrilled woman said "you signed it!" And, clutching her souvenirs, at last restored to her feet and gently driven away, she had experienced a moment of sportsmanship that transcended the intense competitiveness of the Ryder Cup. The buggy on which she was escorted passed another one, the only blue buggy on the course, driven here and there and everywhere by Ballesteros. The captain likes to get around.

'A team should be able to sell its league position. Flog it. Do a little trading'

DANNY BAKER



Notts County infinitely preferable to simply being some punch-drunk bunch of rubes at a bad table in soccer's Planet Hollywood? It is not merely a matter of knowing one's place. It is more the solid warmth of being among friends. Stoke supporters may not actually like us — possibly still sulking from the infamous razor-blades-in-hurled-potatoes thing back in the early 70s — but they sure as hell have never patronised us. They regard our meeting as a genuine, bona fide, fixture. But when Barnsley run out at Old Trafford they will be indulged, applauded, given encouragement and generally made to feel like some winner of a competition in *Smash Hits* who have seen their dream of being back-stage with Boyzone come true. They will lose the match a thousand-fold and receive a nice hand as they sprint naked back to the coach.

Here is what must be allowed to take place with immediate effect. Any team, at any point, should be allowed to sell their league position. That's right. Flog your status. Maximise your potential. Sell up. Sell out. If football is a business then let's do a little trading. Look at it this way: you busted your Barnsley chops last year — for what? To bring big names to town? You're a

football club, not Harvey Goldsmith. Come on, be real. You're a lower league side who lucked out so let's parlay this into something lasting. All you've got to do is stick together a couple of results — a win at Palace, a draw at Coventry — then sit in Nossbleed City (seventeenth) and simply pick up the phone to Molineux or Maine Road and tell them that, sweet as the air around here is, you are missing the old neighbourhood — wanna swap? £15-20 mill sounds about fair. And here's the beauty part. City will probably rise to the occasion. They will make a better fist of it than you and probably, before long, will be looking at the Everton and West Hams in their rearview mirror (pedigree can only bloom into true class when not shackled by shame and bust morale).

Plus you really aren't a bad side. So how tough is it going to be knocking over Peterborough and Norwich again? Result — you don't lose another match, the fans can continue to chant "Champions!", and slap me, you wind up being able to repeat the whole exhilarating gag next year.

I can't see a downside to this entire venture. It's bold, it's modern and it's totally honest. The only bellyache I've encountered is from idealistic maniacs who think if this scheme were accepted, then the premier league would simply become a playground for the rich and famous.

As opposed to what we have now, you mean?

Tale of the tape

I HAVE been sent an audio tape of Steve Archibald falling downstairs. It is about eight seconds long and undoubtedly someone falling downstairs — but Steve Archibald? I don't know. The faller never cries out so we don't even have a Scottish accent to go on. The accompanying letter

— signed The Big K — insists the tumble took place "sometime in 1984". There is no suggestion that Steve was intoxicated or suffered injuries from the fall. When I played the tape on the radio last week, Steve Archibald's solicitors made no move. This could be football's own "Roswell Incident".

Fast thinking

I'M GOING to have to start charging for advice on how to pep up sports. Most of my friends are bemoaning the trend in Formula One that, if I follow them correctly, means each and every grand prix has become a hopeless, pointless high-speed procession that once begun cannot be altered

and simply must be played out to its predictable conclusion.

Well, leaving aside a rather clever joke at the expense of the Royal Variety Show here, I think I have the answer to bring about the thrill of the chase. Four words: last lap on foot.

Keggy Keegle's cottage industry

IN ONE of my favourite pieces of sports commentating, the superb Brian Moore wondered aloud what "this next 45 minutes" held for "Keggy Keegle... I'm sorry, Kevin Keegle..." and I've not referred to the Great Tortured Man by anything else since. After far too long an absence — a week and a half — Keggy is back in the game, his keen Keegle eye already on Europe. He will, of course, do it, and nobody

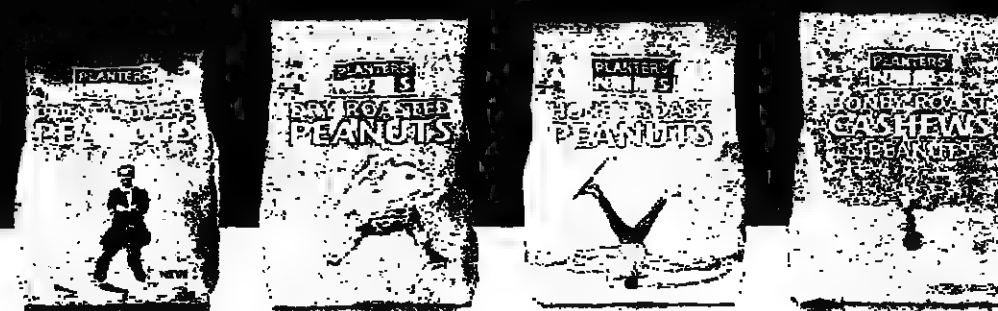
should be in any way surprised at his choice of club. Fulham have long been a barney outfit with a tradition of Stage-Door-Johnnyism going back from Tommy Trinder through George Best and Rodney Marsh, the platonic love of Jimmy Hill and right up to Keggy himself. It comes from being across the road to Chelsea, the Kings of Showbiz Football. So, periodically they advertise very large indeed and after an extended

Summer Season at the pier's end... they go back to being Not Chelsea once more. This is as it should be. But what of the Kegmeister? As the poet wrote "How long, O breath, how long..."

Well, the universe is not without its cosmic jokes. I hear the news of the Kegman's return but moments after a news item about the opening night of *Wilde*, starring Stephen Fry. Empires are turned on such fateful omens...



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In our view, there are no nicer nibbles to accompany a tipple when you next find yourself in the 19th.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Cup fever shifts to downtown Sudbury

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY WALTER GAMMIE

NOT everything that the FA Cup touches turns to gold. Sudbury Town suffered such a letdown from their run last season that they ended by resigning from the Dr Martens League. They dropped into the Jewish Eastern Counties League, taking the place of their own reserve team — now disbanded — alongside Sudbury Wanderers, their local rivals.

"The reasons were financial," David Webb, the secretary, said after the club went through the throes of forming a new board and shedding the majority of its contracted players. Even though Sudbury beat Brighton in a first-round replay and then lost to Brentford in a "home" match switched to Colchester United's ground, the pickings were not great.

"There wasn't as big a gate at Layer Road as we expected," Webb said, "and the stewards, policing and the rest cost us a lot of money." Add the increasing number of clubs from the West Country in the Dr Martens League southern division, and inadequate attendances in a small market town, and the decision to end a seven-year spell in the league was easily taken.

Richie Powling, the manager, and the remaining contracted players from last season are now focused on the biggest challenge of their season, an away match against Wroxham, the champions, tomorrow.

Down the road, meanwhile, Sudbury Wanderers are gripped by a mild dose of the Cup fever that swept the town as they prepare for a home tie in the second qualifying round against Bromsgrove Rovers. Wanderers have already taken the scalp of one former Conference club, beating Stafford Rangers 3-0 at Brundon Lane.

The irony of Town's plight is that their exploits last season have earned them exemption to the fourth qualifying round.

"You could call it a golden handshake," Webb said.

Seamier side of the game

The Forest v Anderlecht affair fits a sorry pattern in European football

I was at the San Siro in May 1965 that Tommy Smith literally kicked the referee off the field. Kicked him, as he still recounts, all the way back to the dressing-room. Not that it was much consolation. Two decisions by Ortiz de Nandibail, the Spanish referee — a goal scored by Internazionale from an indirect free kick, another when Petro kicked the ball out of the goalkeeper's hands — had enabled Inter to win the second leg of a European Cup semi-final 3-0 after losing 3-1 at Anfield.

They had won in much the same way in the equivalent semi-final the previous year when Luis Suarez kicked Dortmund's right half and put him off the field, reducing the Germans to ten men. The Yugoslav referee did nothing about it.

In the 1966 semi-final, however, a brave Hungarian referee, Gyorgy Vadas, resisted the blandishments of Angelo Moratti, the Inter president. Real Madrid gained a draw to reach the final — and Vadas never got another international game.

Those of us who spent years beating our heads against a wall, publicising such tales of corruption to no avail, are hardly surprised by the news that the papers relating to the Anderlecht v Nottingham Forest Uefa Cup semi-final in 1984 "disappeared" after reaching the Uefa offices five years ago.

Anderlecht are known now to have bribed the Spanish referee of that game, Guruceta Muro, who was subsequently killed in a



Left: Guruceta Muro, the referee bribed by Anderlecht in 1984 to allow them to beat Nottingham Forest in the Uefa Cup semi-final, above. Anderlecht may escape suspension

car crash. Muro refused Forest a perfectly good goal headed by Paul Hart, and gave a non-existent penalty against them. Uefa's statute of limitations has a ten-year span and although Uefa have now tried to suspend Anderlecht from their tournaments for a year, they may not be able to make it stick.

To be fair, Uefa, under the reign of Lennart Johansson, have been more willing to act than under previous leaders. A couple of seasons ago, indeed, they acted with what seemed almost indecent haste when Dynamo Kiev were accused of offering fur coats to the Spanish referee, Lopez Nieto.

In no time at all, Kiev, who cut little international ice, were suitably punished. Their appeal was heard and dismissed in the blink of an eye; though later their suspension was reduced.

Kiev may or may not have been guilty, though their complaints that they had

been castigated because they did not matter made some sense. No such punishment, indeed none at all, visited Juventus when, in a Sunday Times investigation, myself and a colleague showed beyond doubt that the Hungarian fixer, Deszo Soli, who had previously worked for Inter, had gone to Lisbon to offer money to the Portuguese referee, Lobo, to bend the 1973 return European Cup semi-final between Derby County and Juventus.

Lobo reported the attempt. Juventus seemed bang to rights, but a farcical Uefa disciplinary committee meeting in Zurich failed to confront Soli with Lobo, and was followed almost at once by a letter of thanks and exoneration to Juventus from Hans Bangerter, the Uefa secretary.

At the centre of such activities at Inter, and then Juventus, was the celebrated wheeler-dealer, Italo Allodi.

When an Italian newspaper once asked him whether he was hurt by my

BRIAN GLANVILLE



attack, he replied he was, especially because, when I was ill in Florence, he was among those who had sent money to enable me to stay there. That was in 1954 and I did not stay in Florence, but went home for an operation on my back. I met Allodi for the first

time in a Belgrade hotel, where he was gambling, in 1973. Four years later, at the Hotel Excelsior in Rome, a few hours before Liverpool won the European Cup final, he approached me, saying: "We've never met, but my name is Italo Allodi."

When I asked him his intentions, he replied in the press that he had sent money through an old friend of mine, an Italian youth coach, who by that time was presumed dead.

Uefa's indulgence of Juve in 1973 and after — our revelations brought no action and Soli was deemed to be acting alone — provided corrupt clubs with a kind of cheat's charter.

In 1983, Inter were at it again. Groningen, of Holland, beat them in a first-leg Uefa Cup match after which the manager, Han Berger, was approached by a Dutch intermediary, the agent Apollonius Konijnberg. He, according to Berger, offered him £55,000 to see Groningen lose the return.

In the event, Inter won easily in Bari, where they had

to play their home game, but a Uefa inquiry ensued in which Groningen's president, De Vries, said he himself had been approached in Bari. Berger said that Inter had offered to pay for a new grandstand while he could have the manager-ship of Pisa or Verona.

One of Konijnberg's most damning conversations with Berger had been overheard by a witness. But in the event, the committee decided there was no proof that Konijnberg and Inter were connected.

Tomorrow, if Torino do not beat Genoa in a Serie B game in Turin.

Graeme Souness is in danger of losing his job as the Torino manager. Spartaco Landini, the Genoa general manager, is in no danger at all.

The Italy right back when they lost to North Korea in Middlesbrough in the 1966 World Cup, Landini was involved in an opera buffa of a scam 20 years later. Roma had lost to Dundee United away in

the first leg of yet another European cup semi-final. Landini and Giampaolo Cominato, a football administrator, approached the Roma president, Dino Viola, and said that if he gave them £50,000, they could fix the French referee, Michel Vautrot.

The money was handed over but the two never went near the blameless Vautrot. However, when the referee was taken out to dinner by Roma directors, he received a mysterious phone call, actually from Cominato, saying: "Paolo wishes you good luck" — a pre-arranged message.

Dino Viola, however, assumed this was an Italian referee called Paolo Bergamo, to whom in time he blurred out the tale. Bergamo reported it, but under the Italian Federation's statute of limitations, it was too late to proceed. Landini and Cominato were not prosecuted. Roma escaped merely with a fine by Uefa.

Small wonder Anderlecht thought they could get away with it. Perhaps they have.

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When losing is no joke



Pointing the finger: For a time, Wilson refrained from public criticism of his players. Now he can hold back no longer

The supporters are beginning to get restless, Mark Hodkinson reports

Seven weeks ago, Barnsley was a town on fire. The football club had secured promotion to the FA Cup Premier-ship and people sang their joy and eternal loyalty, whether to a television camera, down at the pub or in the person behind them in the queue for a season ticket.

Since then, the team has lost six matches, conceded 21 goals and finds itself in the relegation zone for the first time this season. There are, of course, thousands who remain unflinchingly loyal, but the trickle of discontent has started. "It was pretty dire," John Murphy of Burton Grange, Barnsley, wrote. "We couldn't pass: we didn't know what to do when we had the ball." It gets worse.

"Barnsley were a pathetic embarrassment. I felt myself cringing in my seat. What is going on at Oakwell?" Ellie Hambleton, of Darfield, asked.

These comments were among a batch of letters sent to the *Barnsley Chronicle* after the team's 3-0 home defeat against Aston Villa two weeks ago. At this match, a significant number left ten minutes before the final whistle. Some of these would have been the same people who, back in May, queued for hours to buy a season ticket to ensure that they did not miss out on Barnsley's

LIFE AT THE TOP



historic season. Presumably, the air of dissatisfaction will have been honed by two further heavy defeats since.

Much was made of the response to Barnsley's 6-0 drubbing by Chelsea a month ago. They sang when they were hurting, boasting that they were to win 6-5 when they were five goals behind.

The reaction was mere bravado, but it was seen, erroneously, as a barometer of loyalty. When your team is losing so heavily, especially at home, a game takes on a surreal quality. It becomes comical in the same way it does when your luggage flies to New Delhi while you land in Rome and the rep announces that there is a meningitis scare at your intended hotel.

It is not, however, a matter of hilarity when your team

loses to a struggling Villa side, especially if they have scored three times from eight shots and your team has not scored from 13 attempts. These cruel and frustrating defeats are borne reluctantly by the supporter, but with valour; anything else is cowardly.

Keith Lodge, the sports editor who has opened the letters of complaint at the *Chronicle*, is a seasoned hack, not prone to indignation or shouting. He thinks before he speaks. His response to the grumbling and the early-leavers amounts, then, to a noteworthy reprimand. "For supporters to dish out such harsh criticism on the management so soon is every bit as pathetic as the embarrassment felt by the lady who sent us a letter describing how she cringed in her seat," he said.

The gripping might be premature but it is indicative of a tangible mood-swing within the town. This is mirrored by a degree of change within the club. The side that clinched promotion appears to be disintegrating; in recent games more than half the players used have been signed since the summer. Paul Wilkinson, the striker who formed a 27-goal partnership last season with John Hendrie, has left to join Millwall. Clint Marcelle has been linked with the Spanish club, Seville, and several predatory scouts have noted Hendrie's inability to hold down a first-team place.

Another difference has been Danny Wilson's willingness publicly to criticise his team, notably his defenders. He had previously kept his censure within the dressing-room. This week he called on them in several interviews to "take on responsibility" and improve their all-round play.

A team in flux, impatient supporters, a manager lambasting his players: Barnsley would seem to be a club bleeding hope and dreams. Everyone knows, though, that a couple of wins, preferably in succession, will have them dancing in the streets once more. Such is the fickle nature of the football supporter.

Fulham bask in



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Karlheinz Riedle's professionalism has earned instant respect from team-mates and management at Liverpool



Riedle has plainly not come to England in search of easy money — on and off the field he has impressed his new employers at Anfield. "He is the best professional I've ever worked with," Evans, the Liverpool manager, said

High-duty import

The Liverpool players are not an easy bunch to impress. There is an irreverent, impish streak running through the younger ones, in particular, an individuality, an iconoclastic attitude that can offend those who are used to the studied blandness of men such as Alan Shearer. They do not give their respect easily, but they have given it to Karlheinz Riedle.

He went with them to Chester races earlier this week on a club day out. Sometimes, when a group of players go out for a meal locally, he goes as well. He joins in: that is part of the reason why they like him, part of the reason they never really warmed to the more aloof Stan Collymore. With Riedle, though, there is another reason, too.

"There was instant respect for Karl among the rest of the players as soon as he arrived here," Steve McManaman said. "He has won everything there is to win in the game but the point is that we are not talking about something he did five or ten years ago, something way back in time. When he came to Liverpool, he had just scored two goals against Juventus, the best club side in the world, to win the European Cup for Borussia Dortmund. Three months later and there he was playing for us at Wimbledon. The respect for him here is second to none because of what he has achieved in his career."

It does not end there, either. Riedle has enough respect to rattle Linford Christie with any. "He is the best professional I have ever worked with," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said after the 3-0 victory over Aston Villa on Monday. And Evans has worked with a few good professionals in his time.

Riedle is a sober character, earnest and amiable, courteous to a fault, a model

footballer indeed. He is fluent in several languages, including English, but until recently he has asked for a translator to be present at interviews lest he be misinterpreted. He does not court controversy or attention. His words exude diplomacy.

His character is less flamboyant than that of Jürgen Klinsmann, the only other high-profile German to have played in the Premiership, but, in a quieter way, he is likely to be just as effective an ambassador for his country's footballing talents.

He has already gained a reputation on Merseyside for being sensible. He shied away from living in Southport, the favoured residence of Liverpool and Everton footballers, because he was worried that the funfair would distract his sons, Alessandro, six, and Dominic, four, from their schoolwork.

"I know my boys," Riedle said. "When you have a playground like this in Southport, they would want to go every day. It might distract them a little bit. It is not too important but I thought it would

OLIVER HOLT



be better if we moved somewhere else." Next week, he and the boys and his wife, Gabby, are due to move into a house "over the water" on The Wirral.

It is already clear that Evans got one of the best bargains of the summer when he paid Dortmund £1.8 million for the man who scored two classic headers in the 3-1 European Cup final defeat of Juventus in Munich in May.

Even though Riedle's international career appears to have come to an end, nobody could quite believe he was leaving the European champions for Anfield and when his signing was confirmed, the cynics said he just wanted one last payday.

The three goals he has scored already, though, have all been minor classics. The first, after a fine turn had embarrassed a defender, was a delicate chip over Nigel Martyn in the victory at Leeds United, the second a bullet header that Paul Jones could only push into the roof of the net against Southampton at The Dell last Saturday, the third a clinical finish



Riedle during his Liverpool debut

against Villa that hurtled through the legs of Mark Bosnich.

More than that, it is obvious that his style of play, his ability to hold the ball up and let others feed off him, his famous prowess in the air, can only complement the quicksilver skills of Robbie Fowler and Michael Owen whenever they play alongside him.

At the moment, the two young players are even threatening to keep him out of

the side but Riedle, who celebrated his 32nd birthday last week, is the antithesis of the temperamental foreign import. Speak to him for five minutes and it is clear he is not the sort of man who could play out his career at half-price, thinking just of the money. When he talks about a duty to the team, he means it.

"It is not my problem about what the manager does when Robbie is fully fit and Michael and I want the other place," Riedle said. "We have so many good players at the club and it is not a concern for me if I have to go on the bench. Of course, when you do not play, you do not feel good, but the important thing is to work for the team."

"When I came here, the manager said he wanted me to play a little bit behind the first forward. I like this position and it is important to create the space and the chances for other people to score. Who scores is not so important to me any more."

"Scoring is nice but I feel the same when I create a goal now. Playing for the team is more important than my own glory now. I knew all about Robbie before I came to Liverpool but I have to admit I was not aware of Michael. I am aware of him now. He is a fantastic young player. I admire both of them."

"People wonder why I left Dortmund but we were at the point where we had won two domestic championships in succession in Germany and then the European Cup as well and it was the right

time for me to change. Last year was probably the happiest year of my career but when you have won a lot of things with one team, sometimes it is better to have another challenge so you can create new things."

Riedle began his career with the Bundesliga club, Augsburg, before he moved on to Blau-Weiss Berlin, Werder Bremen and then Lazio, where he was a contemporary of Paul Gascoigne and played in attack with Thomas Doll. He scored 17 goals in 45 internationals for Germany and was part of the squad that won the 1990 World Cup in Italy. When he left Lazio, he joined Dortmund.

He had long cherished an ambition to play in the Premiership with one of the leading clubs, though, and when the opportunity to play for Liverpool arose, he jumped at it. Off the field, he is already reveling in the quieter life that he is allowed to lead.

"It was impossible to live like a normal person in Italy or in Germany," he said. "Since I have been living here, I have even been able to go shopping to the supermarket with my wife. That is the first time I have been able to do that. The people here are so friendly. They are much more open than anywhere else I have lived."

"People ask why I did not go to London where the restaurants and the theatres are. But I did not come here for restaurants and theatres. I want to play good football at a high level. I think Liverpool will be my last club. After that, maybe I will play for a joke somewhere else but when I leave here, I will be finished with playing football."

Perhaps then he will have time for Southport and its funfair.

Fulham bask in limelight

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

FULHAM'S training headquarters at the BBC Sports Ground in Motspur Park, deep in suburban Surrey, rarely attracts much attention. Perhaps a few retired house-holders might peer from their back gardens, as the Fulham players practise, but there is little of significant interest.

Not any more. After the appointment of Kevin Keegan and Ray Wilkins on Thursday, to lead Fulham into the promised land of the FA Carling Premiership, nothing is as it was at the Nationwide League second division club. Motspur Park was alive yesterday with representatives of the media, all wanting an audience with the saviours of Craven Cottage and long is it likely to continue.

As the players tried to prepare for their game away to Wigan Athletic this afternoon, Simon Morgan, the Fulham captain, admitted that it had been a week of distraction. "To be truthful, it's been a crazy whirl, but we are typical



players," he said. "We've closed the dressing-room door and had a good laugh and enjoyed some banter. There is a great opportunity for us here to impress and go forward with the new management. Our future is in our hands."

Keegan, the bizarrely named chief operating officer, will initially assist with coaching as he assesses his players. Wilkins, the manager, will pick the team. "My first impression has been of the enthusiasm shown in training by everyone," Keegan, whose newly inherited side has lost its past four league and cup matches, said.

No such happy times at Huddersfield Town, who are without a league victory this season and languish in last

place in the first division. Disenchanted supporters have been calling for the head of Brian Horton, the manager, and may well repeat their requests if Huddersfield do not improve against Wolverhampton Wanderers at Molineux today.

"There's no way I'm walking away from this club," Horton said. "I'm working very hard to put things right and I care very much about the club. I had a reputation of being a batter as a player and that's exactly what I am as a manager. There's no way I'm going to let my head drop."

Billy Bonds, the Millwall manager, continued his recent spending spree yesterday by signing Nigel Spink, the goalkeeper, from West Bromwich Albion for £50,000.

Spink, 39, who played in Aston Villa's European Cup final victory against Bayern Munich in 1982, is Bonds's third signing after the arrival of the strikers, Paul Shaw and Paul Wilkinson, from Arsenal and Barnsley respectively, for a combined £400,000.

Injury rules out Ripley for England

By KEVIN MCCARRA

STUART RIPLEY will not recover from injury in time to make the England squad for the World Cup qualifying match in Italy. At the start of the week, Roy Hodgson, the Blackburn manager, offered to hurry the winger back after his pulled hamstring if Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, wanted him for the game in Rome on October 11.

But yesterday Hodgson said that Ripley will not play until next Saturday against Wimbledon at the earliest, which is too late for an England call-up.

Andy Impey, 21, is in line to make his debut for West Ham United against Liverpool at Upton Park today after his transfer for £1.2 million from Queens Park Rangers.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, yesterday denied reports that Arsenal have made a bid for Jason McAteer, the unsettled Liverpool midfielder player.

Rangers wear heavy disguise

By KEVIN MCCARRA

THOSE with their eyes fixed only on results may believe that they have witnessed Scottish football sticking fast to its traditional ways. On Wednesday, Rangers won 3-0 at Kilmarnock to assume their familiar leadership of the Bell's Scottish League premier division.

Facts, however, can be slimy. The league table might still resemble an icebound landscape, unable to change and never to permit fresh growth, but the mood of the game is far from desolate. Despite superficial appearances, the season has not corresponded to the dreary predictions and Rangers, to their distress, have proved that their success is never a matter of destiny.

Reaching the top of the premier division will not be enough to mollify their aggrieved supporters. In the summer, after the outlay of £14 million on eight new players, the public and the pundits were united in trumpeting the might and depth of the Rang-

ers squad. Only their opponents failed to swoon.

Some signings are injured, others seem bland and Rangers have been removed from the European Cup by IFK Gothenburg, from the Coca-Cola Cup by Dundee United, and lag 2-1 to a humdrum Strassbourg team after the first leg of their UEFA Cup tie. Rangers have hardly troubled to conceal the fact that they are flustered.

It may have hurt their pride to re-sign Richard Gough, who is expected to return from Kansas City Wizards next month, but this slice of humble pie may be nutritious. The centre half is 35, yet Rangers have still to demonstrate that they can find successors for such Scots, whose resolve underwrote success at Ibrox over many years.

Celtic, too, have proved surprising, although in their case the shock comes from a failure to live down to expectations. Wim Jansen, their Dutch coach, was a formidable player, but he lacks the patina of celebrity that would

have ensured respect. His appointment, in the summer, was met with disdain. Defeats by Hibernian and Dunfermline Athletic, in Celtic's opening league matches, added to the forlorn impression, but the club has not been beaten by any other Scottish club since then and, in last weekend's 2-0 win over Aberdeen, the tactical solidity of Jansen's side was as striking as its élan.

Now, of course, Celtic face the difficulty of retaining the form they have discovered. Today, they are at Dundee United and even if Tommy McLean's team are without a victory in the League, Celtic will be mindful of their feat in removing Rangers from the Coca-Cola Cup. Rangers themselves, at home to Motherwell, may once more be able to further their interests in a season that has so far brought only denigration.

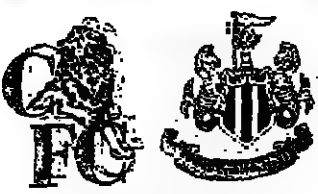
For Aberdeen, catcalls have almost become a soundtrack. They are bottom of the table and the mortification is made all the more intense by perplexity. A squad that seemed

to have been thoughtfully reconstructed in the close season should amass a sturdy record and take up a respectable position in the league.

Instead, they are last and the match at home today, against Dunfermline, does not guarantee revival. So far, the premier division has been a disconcerting affair with Hibernian, at home to St Johnstone today, and Heart of Midlothian, who are at Kilmarnock, engaged in a joint exercise to restore dignity to football in Edinburgh.

Scotland's first, second and third division clubs have been promised a share of around £1 million a season if the proposed Premiership league becomes a reality. Lex Gold, chairman of Hibernian and spokesman for the premier division clubs, yesterday outlined the criteria and principles of the proposed new league and revealed that £985,000 would be given to the 30 clubs outside the top flight — a sum similar to that which they receive at present from the Scottish League.

FOOTBALL SATURDAY



CHELSEA
v
NEWCASTLE UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Oliver Holt
Gianfranco Zola, Chelsea's Italian forward, admitted yesterday that his team must beat Newcastle United at

Stamford Bridge today to maintain their status as genuine challengers for the FA Cup Premiership title.

This is the third of four games for Chelsea against other leading contenders and they need the psychological boost of a win against Kenny Dalglish's team after the loss to Arsenal last Sunday and the bruising draw with Manchester United in midweek.

Newcastle, still inspired by their Champions' League victory over Barcelona ten days ago and with Faustino Asprilla in his best form since he arrived at St James' Park, would go to the top of the Premiership if they won their games in hand.

After a quiet start, though, Zola is showing signs of returning to the form that made him player of the year last season, and yesterday, at the club's training ground, he did not try to dodge the importance of this match.

"Tomorrow is a very, very important game for us," he said. "We are playing against a team

that is one of the candidates for the championship and we need to be a big step forward against them. We need to consolidate all the work we have done."

"Last year, we were a team that had good skills but did not believe too much in themselves. This year, we have bought six or seven more good players and we have got that belief in ourselves. I have not played at the same level as last year yet. I am quite happy, but I am not completely satisfied. Soon, I will be back to where I was."

Chelsea will still be without the injured Michael Duberry, but Frank Sinclair returns after a three-match ban and Danny Granville is also added to the squad that travelled to Old Trafford. Once more, Ruud Geulit, the player-manager, gave no clues as to which strike force he would use, but Chelsea should just have the edge whoever he selects.

Even with their game against Dinamo Kiev next Wednesday in mind, there is no such uncertainty in the Newcastle camp. Asprilla will lead the line, probably aided by Keith Gillespie and Jon Dahl Tomasson. "I was a team-mate of mine at Parma," Zola said. "He did some unbelievable things while he was there, things that only he can do, but he was not consistent. Now he seems to have that as well."

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: Chelsea to win by one goal.



Many happy returns, Eric Cantona waits in vain for appreciative applause after scoring in the 4-0 romp at Elland Road last year

1
FIRST
11
ELEVEN

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

Manchester United can be sure of a cheery welcome from admiring Leeds United fans at Elland Road today. Here are 11 other teams who just don't get along.

1. Liverpool and Manchester United... they don't like Man U either
2. Brighton and Crystal Palace Brighton fans are naturally envious of residents of Croydon
3. Barcelona and Real Madrid The Catalans don't like Real... or anything else about Madrid for that matter
4. Chelsea and Leeds United You may think the 1970 FA Cup Final is old news, but these two?
5. England and Germany 1966, 1970, 1990, 1996... and a few other earlier fall-outs
6. Anderlecht and Nottingham Forest Can't think what this is about
7. Reading, Oxford and Swindon The battle for control of the "Didcot Triangle" is fierce
8. Ajax and Feyenoord Amsterdam v Rotterdam — do you give a dam?
9. Portsmouth and Plymouth Argyle Too much time contemplating their navies
10. Aberdeen and Rangers The Dons hate Rangers more than Celtic do
11. El Salvador and Honduras El Salvador pipped their neighbours for a place in the 1970 World Cup, so they had a war

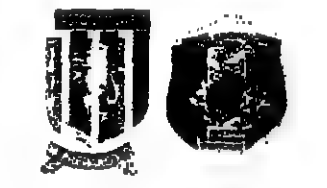
Compiled by Richard Whitehead



Russell Kempson
Instead of Neale Barry, a planner from Southampton, having been appointed to take charge of affairs

at Villa Park this afternoon, perhaps a psychologist would have been better suited. He could then delve into the innermost thoughts of Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa striker, to discover exactly what is wrong with the sullen superstar. Maybe he could also explain why Benito Carbone and David Hirst, the Sheffield Wednesday team-mates, almost came to blows during the 5-2 defeat against Derby County in midweek.

Dr Know could also judge the



ASTON VILLA
v
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY
Today, 3.0

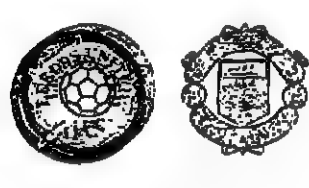
well-being of Bruce Grobbelaar if, as expected, he makes his debut after signing a three-month contract for Wednesday. Is Grobbelaar mentally fit to stand behind a kamikaze defence so soon after enduring such a lengthy court case? Or is he

ideally qualified by virtue of always having been a goal kick short of the 90 minutes?

Mind games play a significant role in many matches and Villa, despite the 3-0 loss against Liverpool on Monday, should prove more capable of bouncing back from adversity. The omnipresent optimism of David Platt, the Wednesday manager, is wanting.

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: More woe for Wednesday.



LEEDS UNITED
v
MANCHESTER UNITED
Today, 3.0 (sold out)



David Maddock
Perhaps Manchester United could draft Jacques Delors into their squad, given

the absence of a certain French figure for the supporters of Leeds United to focus on in their enduring loathing of Manchester United.

It won't seem the same without Cantona. No security guards, no splitting, no bile on the terraces, no eerie silence when he scores.

Alex Ferguson, the manager, won't fit the bill because he hasn't been whingeing enough lately, so it will have to be Roy Keane.

The Ireland midfielder player was booked during an ill-tempered match against Chelsea in midweek, only a day after Ferguson claimed that his captain had turned over a new leaf and become a veritable choirboy.

It should be some contest if Hopkin is fit to oppose Keane and it is here that the match will be decided. Expect fireworks — Hopkin has ginger hair, Keane should have.

Leeds are about as consistent as Liberal Democrat feelings on a pact with Labour. The win at Southampton on Wednesday was the third on their travels, but they have yet to win at home this season and George Graham, the manager, admits he is baffled by such a contradiction in form.

Ferguson has almost a full squad to choose from and the time has surely come to put Andy Cole out of his misery by restoring Ole Gunnar Solskjaer to the starting line-up, with Teddy Sheringham also likely to be given a run before his European debut on Wednesday.

Last season, a resounding 4-0 victory at Elland Road for Manchester United resulted in Howard Wilkinson being sacked. With the parsimonious Graham in charge, a repeat is unlikely.

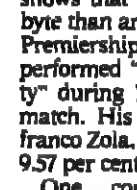
TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Manchester United's third draw in a week

ON MONDAY
Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports



EVERTON
v
ARSENAL
Today, 3.0

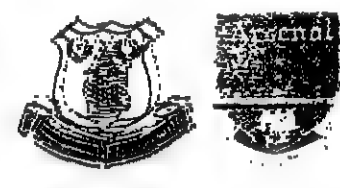


Mark Dickinson
Things are looking good for Arsenal and Dennis Bergkamp. The team sit on top of the FA Cup

ling Premiership on goal difference and Bergkamp is in magnificent form.

Dr Peter O'Donoghue, of the University of Ulster, has devised a computerised system that shows that Bergkamp has more by far than any other striker in the Premiership. In a recent game he performed "high-intensity activity" during 13.43 per cent of the match. His nearest rival, Gianfranco Zola, of Chelsea, mustered 9.57 per cent.

One constant statistic is



EVERTON
v
ARSENAL
Today, 3.0

Arsenal's disciplinary record. Four players — Wright, Vieira, Bould and Bergkamp — have incurred two or more yellow cards each and only Crystal Palace have a worse record.

Everton are still unsettled and uninspiring with only vague evi-

dence of a team taking shape. A survey by the club's fanzine, *Spoke From The Harbour*, revealed that one in four supporters thought the highlight of last season was the sacking of Joe Royle, their former manager. Howard Kendall, take note.

Dixon and Winterburn were injured in midweek, but are expected to play. Everton have no new injury problems.

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Arsenal to win by a single goal.

the second, Marcus Gayle could return to bolster their forward line and Michael Hughes should make his debut after his £1.6 million transfer from West Ham United.

This fixture has a habit of throwing up controversy and it could be a physical confrontation. Ferdinand's return should prove enough to give Spurs victory and put their flirtation with Fabrizio Ravanelli behind them.

TELEVISION: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Spurs to win 2-1.

But at Highbury, the left-footed Unsworth spent much of his time on the flank, while Pearce was badly outpaced by Bergkamp for Arsenal's first goal. The good news is that Andy Impey, the former Queens Park Rangers player, will make his debut and Eval Berkovic should be fit.

Liverpool are expected to welcome back Paul Ince, well though Danny Murphy and James Carragher played against Villa.

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: Liverpool to win.

Hodgson, the Blackburn Rovers manager, said. Coventry have no such worries given the lack of English talent in their squad, but they may have unearthed one for the future. The name is familiar — Shilton — and, yes, Sam is the son of Peter, but he is not a goalkeeper. He plays in midfield and Gordon Strachan is hugely impressed.

TELEVISION: Tomorrow, Live on Sky Sports 3, 4.0

PREDICTION: Resounding Rovers win, Hendry first scorer at 16-1



Michael Henderson
This is the sort of match that Barnsley must win if they are to remain an FA Cup

ling Premiership club. They are not expected to beat the likes of Manchester United and Liverpool. In fact, they can trade in those points right now.

But, if they fail to beat teams such as Leicester City, who are goodish but not sufficiently accomplished to be intimidating, they will return to the Nationwide League first division PDQ.

Barnsley lost at Wimbledon the other night after turning round a goal to the good and cannot afford to spurn such opportuni-



BARNLEY
v
LEICESTER CITY
Today, 3.0 (sold out)

ties. They were promoted on merit, having won a reputation for playing good football, but those memories will not sustain them in a league which may lack distinction but which, nevertheless, punishes those who fall behind the pace.

There is no right or wrong, good or bad time to play anybody, but Barnsley will not mind meeting Leicester a few days before the Foxes attempt to overturn the one-goal deficit they brought back from Spain in the Uefa Cup two weeks ago.

To beat Atletico Madrid over two legs would be glory indeed; to win at Oakwell no more than they would expect.

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Leicester to win 2-1.

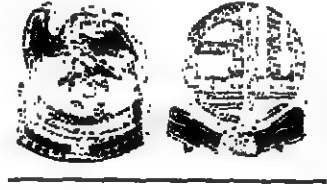


Keith Pike
Barnsley play the most attractive football. Bolton Wanderers have the best stadium, but of the three

FA Cup Premiership newcomers, Crystal Palace have made the most encouraging start. If only they could reproduce their away form (PS, W, D) at Selhurst Park (PS, L).

Before packing his bags for Craven Cottage, Ray Wilkins, the departing Palace coach, acknowledged the team's lack of star quality — and dismissed its relevance. "They are a group of 20 lads who really give everything for each other," he said. "With that, you have half a chance."

That said, Palace will be desper-



CRYSTAL PALACE
v
BOLTON WANDERERS
Today, 3.0

ate for Antonio Lombardo, their one genuine high-quality performer — and their leading goal-scorer — to recover from a thigh strain to face Bolton today.

Bolton's lack of firepower prompted Colin Todd to visit the Continent this week in search of a

striker, the partnership of McGinlay and Blake, which plundered 43 league goals last season, having managed just three so far this term. Returning empty-handed, Todd then dismissed speculation that McGinlay was on his way to Stockport County and that he had made a £2 million bid for Steve Howey, the Newcastle United defender.

McGinlay, Taggart, Sellers and Thompson face fitness tests.

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, goal highlights.

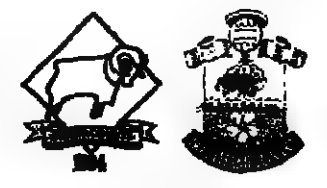
PREDICTION: Palace — just.



Peter Robinson
Talk about fickle. Half-time comes and David Jones strolls along the touchline with warm applause ringing in his

ears: 45 minutes of dull football later, he makes the same trip to a chorus of boos. So it was at The Dell on Wednesday, when Southampton lost 2-0 to Leeds United. Fickle fans, managers hate 'em. Good job Carlton Palmer is coming to the rescue, then.

You may laugh, but Jones, the Southampton manager, believes Palmer is the man for the job — and he may be right. The former England player will add experience and nous to a team that, on the evidence of the season so far,



DERBY COUNTY
v
SOUTHAMPTON
Today, 3.0

clearly needs it. They need to win today, too, or the "R" word — relegation — will be whispered.

Palmer, a £1 million signing from Leeds, will play, although whether in defence or midfield remains to be seen. He, or Dryden, will replace Monkou,

who has pulled a groin muscle. Up front, Jones may gamble on the fitness of Ostenstad (ankle), and Le Tissier (hamstring). Evans, now an Irishman after a chat with Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, will step down.

And Derby County? The saying goes: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it," so, after thumping Sheffield Wednesday 5-2 at Hillsborough, changes are unlikely.

TELEVISION: Today, Match of the Day, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: Hard-fought home win.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports



LEEDS UNITED
v
MANCHESTER UNITED
Tomorrow, 4.0

arow. It was in this fixture a year ago that he suffered a knee ligament injury that, at one stage, he feared would end his blossoming career.

Whatever his reservations, Coleman may be forced to take some part in the match because Stefan Henrich picked up an injury in midweek.



BLACKBURN ROVERS
v
COVENTRY CITY
Tomorrow, 4.0

Stuart Ripley may also make a surprise return, if only in the interests of his country.

"I don't want to risk him really, but I will speak to Glenn Hoddle and if he wants Stuart for the game in Italy then we will consider playing him," Roy

Blackburn Rovers (probably, 4-4-2): T. Flowers — P. Valley, S. Henrich, C. Hendry, J. Kenna — K. Gallacher, T. Sherwood, G. Fittall, J. Wilcox — C. Sutton, M. Dahm.

COVENTRY CITY (probably, 4-4-2): S. Ogilvie — P. Toller, G. McAlister, M. Hall, S. Shilton — D. Hatcher, D. Dufan, R. Jones.

TELEVISION: Tomorrow, Live on Sky Sports 3, 4.0

PREDICTION: Resounding Rovers win, Hendry first scorer at 16-1

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

some experience already, but some young players, such as Jamie Carragher, Danny Murphy and David Thompson, the substitute, were really pitched in at the deep end.

I can't make any great claims about my role as captain, apart from that I just talked to the lads. But then so did the other experienced players. Michael Thomas was helping me by pointing things out on the pitch and just keeping us going.

If I did anything right as captain, it was to win the toss and

kick towards the Kop in the second half, the first time we had done so this season. In fact, I have got a 100 per cent record as Liverpool captain, which can't be bad.

I was pleased with the way that we played, mostly because the young players did so well. It was difficult for them because we were

McMANAMAN'S WORLD

Ronnie Moran, our coach, came up to me a couple of minutes before the kick-off, handed me the armband and said: "You'd better put that on." The lads gave me a bit of ribbing by calling me "skipper" but that was about it. People have suggested that it

I have been in the spotlight quite regularly lately and I know some people will be thinking that I have scored goals and turned on performances because I want to prove

■ Welcome back, Kevin
I was extremely interested to see that Kevin Keegan is to return to the game with Fulham. It is good to see him back so quickly because, no matter what anyone thinks of him, he clearly loves football and he obviously has a lot to offer.

It is an exciting event, especially if you are a Fulham fan, because

If you are a Fulham fan, because he is a massive name who has great charisma. I think that Keegan has a love affair with football. He obviously had problems at Newcastle United, in the sense that the pressure was so intense, and he said that it got too

much for him. I can understand that. At Newcastle there is a massive expectation to win things, and to live that as the manager 24 hours a day would get to anyone. Many people thought that he would never return to a job in football.

At Fulham, it seems that Ray Wilkins will be the manager and Keegan will step back from the day-to-day operation and concentrate on a wider role, which could

track on a wider role, which could explain why he has come back so quickly. This must be such an exciting time to be a Fulham fan because, with the money of Mr Al Fayed behind them, and a manager

STEVE McMANAMAN

WEEKEND MATCHES

[illegible][illegible]

Tufnell faces ban over claims he refused drug test

By JOHN GOODBODY

THE news that Phil Tufnell has allegedly refused to give a urine sample for a random drug test could have the most severe repercussions for the Middlesex spin bowler.

If the charge is proved, Tufnell could be dropped from the England party to tour the West Indies in January and be banned from cricket for at least the whole of the 1998 season, because refusing to provide a sample is as serious as having a positive test for a banned substance.

Tufnell, 31, has just fought back into Test cricket after a series of incidents that have not endeared him to the authorities.

The England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) yesterday announced it has received a report from the United Kingdom Sports Council (UKSC), which conducts drug-testing for all sports, that Tufnell declined to give a specimen during Middlesex's game against Essex at Chelmsford last week, the last fixture of the county season. When Tufnell returns from his holiday abroad, he will face an ECB disciplinary hearing.

Tim Lamb, the ECB chief executive, said yesterday: "It is potentially a serious matter



Tufnell faces ECB inquiry

but it would be quite wrong of us to pre-empt the result of the disciplinary hearing. It is only right to give Phil the opportunity to put his side of the story."

Point seven of the ECB's guidelines on drug-testing says: "It is an offence regarded as serious as giving a positive sample. There is no excuse for failing to comply with the notice to take drug control tests and, if you do not take it, you are liable to be dealt with as if you have been shown to have had a prohibited substance in your body."

There are about 130 drug tests in cricket every year and the most notorious positive case was when Ed Giddins,

the Sussex fast bowler, was found to have taken cocaine. He was banned from cricket for 19 months and will be allowed to return on April 1 next year.

Tufnell's career has been studded with controversy. In 1994, he was fined £800 by a North London court for assaulting his former fiancée, Jane McEvoy, while she was pregnant. She later claimed that Tufnell had taken cocaine, which he denied. However, Tufnell was attacked with a brick by his fiancée's father and Middlesex had to give him compassionate leave while he sorted out his personal life.

He once spent a night in a mental hospital after repeatedly hitting his head against the walls of a hotel in Perth, Australia. On the field, he was fined in 1993 for snatching his cap from an umpire during the England tour of India and also fined for hurling the ball to the ground against the Australians. Middlesex have fined him for making an obscene gesture to spectators at Lord's.

The latest incident was in February this year, when he was alleged to have smoked marijuana in the lavatory of a restaurant in New Zealand, a claim he denied.

After all the controversy, he kept trying to get a regular place in the England team. He was selected for the first five Tests this year but was released without bowling a ball. When he was at last chosen, for the last match at the Oval, he took 11 for 93 and was named man of the match in England's thrilling victory.

He was automatically picked for the West Indies tour but, just as he thought his career was finally in the ascendancy again, he faces this latest blow. He has played 28 Tests for England.

Briton produces masterclass

Whitaker turns on the style at Wembley

By JENNY MACARTHUR

JOHN WHITAKER, who is thrilling the crowds at Wembley with his acclaimed "teach-in" for novice jumpers, gave a convincing display of his winning style in the NSR Silver Bullet Salver at the Horse of the Year Show yesterday, when he and Virtual Village Heyman relegated the Norwegian national champion, Geir Gulliksen, on Alex H., to second place by 0.76sec.

In a rewarding day for the Yorkshire rider, Whitaker later finished a close second to James Fisher on his Lintz Grand Prix winner, Renville, in the Furdys Curry International Cup.

Although the £500 that Whitaker won in the opening class was paltry compared with some of his previous winnings at Wembley (in 1989 he netted £27,000 in the Masters), his pleasure in Heyman's performance appeared to be reward enough. "He goes better each time out," Whitaker said. "He may not make an Olympic horse but he's very careful and very fast. He's definitely a horse for the future."

The eight-year-old Dutch gelding had been out-paced in the opening speed class on Thursday, in which they finished fourth, and Whitaker was determined not to miss out again yesterday. The course was not over-demanding, putting a premium on speed. "I knew it would be fast as soon as I walked it," Whitaker said.

Heyman proved more than equal to the task. Effortlessly moving up a gear he sped round the 12-fence course, turning almost in mid-air after the double at fence No 5 to finish clear in 48.11sec. Although greeted as the winning round, Whitaker had to wait for confirmation until the next 22 riders had tried in vain to match his time. Heyman has already



Whitaker powers to victory on Virtual Village Heyman

proved he has the scope to match his speed, most recently in the Paris Grand Prix last week, where he was joint-eighth after incurring just four faults over his biggest track to date. Tonight he will encounter another demanding track when he competes in the Martin Collins leading showjumper of the year, one of the show's most coveted titles. Earlier today, Whitaker will

ride Grannusch, the 18-year-old who underlined his form with second place in the Furdys Curry Cup yesterday, in the Daeuw championship. Ladbroke's, in their first venture into showjumping, have made him favourite. In between these two classes, Whitaker will give two more displays of his "teach-in" in partnership with Geoff Billington.

IN BRIEF

Late rally takes Australia through

ENGLAND'S hopes of reaching the final of the junior world cup hockey tournament at Milton Keynes yesterday disappeared as Australia scored two late goals to win a gruelling semi-final 2-1. Australia secured their third entry into the final, having finished runners-up in 1982 and 1989. Australia's pressure finally broke down England's defence in the 58th minute when the substitute outside left, Taylor, found space on the left of the circle and pushed the ball into goal for a hard-earned equaliser. Elder scored the winner from a short corner four minutes later. England had taken the lead in the twelfth minute, when Simons finished off a well-worked short corner. England will play Germany tomorrow for the bronze medal.

Sainz to rejoin Toyota

MOTOR RALLYING: Carlos Sainz, from Spain, the former world champion, is leaving Ford to rejoin Toyota next season after the completion of the Japanese team's one-year ban for using illegal turbo restrictors. Ove Andersson, president of Toyota Motorsport, said: "His wealth of experience and technical knowledge will be enormous assets in next year's assault on the world championship."

Marshall marches on

SQUASH: Peter Marshall yesterday defeated Rodney Eyles, of Australia, the top seed, 15-7, 15-14, 15-13 in the quarter-finals of the Rush Creek US Open championship in Minneapolis. It was Marshall's second win over the world No 2 this year. Marshall, 26, of Nottingham, will now meet Simon Parke, also of England, while Peter Nicol, the Scot, will play Jonathon Power.

Hollioake at the helm

CRICKET: England have been seeded third, behind West Indies, the holders, and Australia in the sixth New T & T Cathay Pacific International Hong Kong Sixes. Adam Hollioake, of Surrey, leads a squad containing six members of the party to tour Lahore and Sharjah in December.

ENGLAND SQUAD: A Hollioake (Surrey), D Brown (Worcestershire), M Ealham (Kent), M Fleming (Oxford), B Hollioake (Surrey), G Lloyd (Lancashire).

Hosts entertain England

HOCKEY: England have been drawn in the same group as Holland, the hosts, and South Korea, the Olympic silver medal-winners, in the women's World Cup finals in Utrecht next May. Scotland have been drawn in the same group as Australia, the world and Olympic champions.

WORLD CUP: Pool A: Australia, China, Germany, Scotland, South Africa, United States. Pool B: Argentina, England, India, South Korea, Holland, New Zealand.

Burton's name lives on

CYCLING: A permanent memorial to Beryl Burton, who won seven world road and track championships between 1959 and 1967, will be unveiled this evening at the Manchester velodrome. The memorial is a large display cabinet presented by the Road Time-Trials Council, whose British best all-rounders championship was won by Burton, who died last year, 25 years in succession.

Whittall hits heights

A CAREER-BEST double-century from Guy Whittall put New Zealand on the defensive on the second day of the second and final Test match in Bulawayo yesterday. Whittall's undefeated 203 helped Zimababwe to 401, their third-highest total in 24 Tests, leaving New Zealand with little to play for beyond the draw and, at the close, they were 23 without loss.

ready to end his Derbyshire career. The England fast bowler has been linked with a lucrative move to Worcestershire but last night insisted he was set to stay at the County Ground. "People like to dream about my future and these are just rumours," Malcolm said.

□ The England and Wales Cricket Board has announced a sponsorship deal with Pepsi-Cola for the World Cup in England in 1999.

MOTOR RACING: PANIS MAKES RAPID RETURN TO FORMULA ONE STAGE

has won two world championships since the Canadian Grand Prix in June, a race remembered for the horrific accident experienced by Olivier Panis. While Panis returns tomorrow, after breaking his legs, it will take a monumental drive to divert attention from the compelling contest between the two leading protagonists.

Villeneuve won here last season and, as Damon Hill acknowledged when comparing the two drivers earlier this week, he has the advantage in machinery. Whether he can make the superiority of his Williams-Renault over Schumacher's Ferrari count is another matter.

"It would be stupid to lose the championship because of a bad start," Villeneuve, re-iterating that he is under contract to Williams in 1998, said after practice yesterday.

TENNIS: BRITON OVERCOMES KAFELNIKOV TO EARN SEMI-FINAL PLACE

Like Rusedski, Jonas Bjorkman remains one step from joining the world elite, but whether he can take that final stride is open to considerable doubt. Having beaten Boris Becker here on Wednesday, Bjorkman was after larger headlines yesterday when he confronted Sampras. He failed on account of his fragile temperament, gift-wrapping Sampras victory with some ill-timed double faults.

At this level, intrinsic weaknesses are impossible to disguise. Bjorkman's first service is powerful enough but his second, a noticeably weak delivery, renders him vulnerable to the receiver. When that receiver is Sampras, Bjorkman's problem intensifies, so much so that, having matched Sampras in a tight first set, Bjorkman collapsed completely in the ensuing tie-break. The Swede double faulted at

Sampras served patchily

first service failed him, it was no surprise when his second followed suit. Sampras needed no second prompting to close out the match 7-6, 6-4.

Bjorkman's capitulation was a great pity. The victor over Sampras at Queen's Club three months ago, he looked perfectly at home trading blows with the game's arch exponent. He is among the batch of young turks taking aim at the top ten, but his fallibility under pressure is alarming.

Sampras, for his part, has the air of a man routinely detained in the office. Although he admits to having difficulty motivating himself outside the grand-slam tournaments, the Grand Slam Cup has become his counting house. In six appearances here, Sampras has accrued \$6.4 million (about £4 million).

Villeneuve plans a quick getaway

FROM RICHARD HOBSON AT THE NÜRBURGRING

IT IS supposed to be Michael Schumacher, the aloof perfectionist, who leaves nothing to chance. Yesterday, however, Jacques Villeneuve gave a passable impersonation of his rival for the Formula One drivers' world championship when he spoke of his preparations for the Luxembourg Grand Prix here tomorrow.

Villeneuve, who reduced the deficit between Schumacher and himself to one point at the Austrian Grand Prix last week, revealed that he spent Thursday at Silverstone attempting to remedy the poor starts that have blemished his season.

After exchanging the overall leadership with Schumacher four times during the early weeks of the season, Villeneuve has trailed the man who

Rusedski through to meet Sampras

FROM JULIAN MURRAY TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN MUNICH

GREG RUSEDSKI'S battling qualities stood him in good stead here last night as he earned a place in the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Rusedski, the world No 10, beat Yevgeny Kafelnikov 6-7, 6-3, 6-1 and will now have his status subjected to its most severe test. Today, he faces Pete Sampras.

The British No 1, who is now guaranteed prize-money of £200,000, matched Kafelnikov every step of the way in the tie-break, but he showed all of the determination that has taken him up the rankings to take the second set 6-3. He then broke the former French Open champion three times to win the final set.

FOR THE RECORD

18km: 1. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 2. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 3. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 4. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 5. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 6. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 7. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 8. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 9. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 10. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 11. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 12. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 13. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 14. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 15. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 16. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 17. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 18. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 19. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 20. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 21. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 22. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 23. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 24. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 25. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 26. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 27. J. M. Gomez (20.00). Barcelona. 28. J. M. Gomez (20.00). 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The European Rugby Cup Ltd management board has come down heavily on the two clubs but I think we all realise that you don't want players wrapped in cotton wool. Rugby by its an exciting, aggressive game and, last weekend particularly, the games between Bath and Brive and Toulousa and Leicester went some way towards repairing the damage. There is pressure, there is a demand to win and the stakes are getting higher, but we need to retain a sense of respect for referees and for each other as players.


Guys have to control their discipline under pressure and, in the game at Brive, that didn't happen. What happened off the pitch there was totally unacceptable and gives an entirely incorrect image of the game.

"You have to look after yourself and maybe it will be time to move on," Jenkins, the one-club man, said. "But I don't want to leave Pontypridd, my friends, my family. When I finish I'd like to put something back into the game, maybe as a coach, maybe team manager. Maybe," he says, a touch wistfully, "they can come up with a contract that will keep me here for life."

Jason Little and Matthew Burke are among the absentees.

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surcharges and security charges are not included. Limited availability. Other restrictions apply.

Revoque ready to solve Ascot puzzle

Revoque, left, is fancied for the Queen Elizabeth II Stakes at Ascot today

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Charming? Ruthless

SIMON BARNES

Talking A horse

The horse sports are about power. It is the power of the horse, not the power of man over horse, that wins horse races; and every other kind of horse event. But horses are also about something else: passing from the exclusively human world into the strange border country that exists between two species of mammal. "The only time I am only happy on a horse," Dettori once said. "Then I feel free."

King Of Kings has chip removed from knee

nate injury does not effect his campaign. I expect him to make a full and complete recovery from the operation and he remains on target for next year's 2,000 Guineas."

Nonetheless, King Of Kings has drifted in the Guinean betting, with Coral pushing him out to 10-1 from 8-1. Second Empire, his stable companion, was cut from 8-1 into 7-1 joint-favourite with Daggars Drawn.

Simon Clare, spokesman for Coral, said: "The money for Second Empire comes as no surprise as he arguably put up the best two-year-old performance of the season so far in France. We haven't taken a penny on King Of Kings since his defeat two months ago and that, allied to the recent emergence of Xaar and Second Empire, persuaded us to lengthen his odds."

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

4.20 (7) 1, Ricky Ticky Tavia (K Fallon
2-5 fav), 2, Bamburgh Boy (4-1), 3,

Colony Ritz (16-1) 12 rats. 141 241 D
Loder Tote: £1.50; £1.10, £1 10, £2 80
DF £2.20 Tror: £7.50 CSF £2.31
4 50/60 1 Special Treat (K Fallon 7-4 1/2

0, £1.70 DF
shiner (Paul)

5.20 (Sh) 1. Mighty Sure (G Pardon, 3-1),
2. Swanmore Lady (3-1) 3. Ellenbrook
(3-4 fav). 8 ran. Sh hd, 4l M W Easterby
Total: £5.00, £1 30, £1 50, £1 30 DF

Folkestone

Going: firm

Smith Total £1.60. DF £2.80. CSF £4.40.

2.40 (61) 1, Lugal Lark (M Roberts, 3-1), 2, Just Another Time (9-4 fav), 3, Lady Almira (10-1) 11 ran. Hd, 1:1 P Howling Total: £4.30; £1.80, £1.30, £3.50 DF

unlop Total
DF £10 70
00 Tricast

41 G Wragg
£2.85

2-1 lav. 8 ran. XI, 21 G Lewis Total:
£10.40; £2.20, £2.30, £2.00 DF: £29.90.
CSF. £69.30. Tricost £345.49

4 10 (61 189yd) 11. Master Millfield (J. Wilkinson 14-1), 11. Zurs (H Mullen, 9-2).
3. Mulhills (14-1) Lunch Party 2-1 low 14
ran. NR Red Embers, Sulper Park Do-hi

nk. C Hill, J Poulton, Tote Zurs £3.20,
Master Millfold £7.90, Zurs £2.20, Master
Millfold £4.90, £5.30. DF: £118.60 Trio
£357.10 CSF: Zurs, Master Millfold

12-1, 2, £35.96; Master Milfield, Zurs £40.46;
 12-1, 4, Tricest Zurs, Master Milfield, Mukhlies
 9-2 lav 17 £411.86; Master Milfield, Zurs, Mukhlies
 13.40; £3.30;
 12-1, 2, £449.61

4.40 (1m 71 92yd) 1. Unchanged (M Roberts, 5-1); 2. Padeuk (16-1); 3. Coh Sho No (2-1) & Principe 7-4 fav. 9 ran NR: Brookflow, Prince, Fata.

Times 9-2 J.
Total: £4.00.
DF: £14.80
70, Tricast.

5.10 (1m 4l) 1. Opera Buff (J Wilkinson, 9-2), 2. Pistol (2-1 fav); 3. Nobel Lad (12-1) 9 ran NR Statejack Hrd, St Miss G Kellaway, Trls, on 25-26.

Jackpot: £7,890.10.
Placeno! £87 on

Quadrant £49.40.

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super

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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are undernourished has declined from 1.1 billion to 800 million. The number of people who are malnourished has declined from 1.5 billion to 1 billion. The number of people who are obese has increased from 100 million to 300 million. The number of people who are overweight has increased from 100 million to 300 million. The number of people who are obese and overweight has increased from 100 million to 300 million. The number of people who are obese and overweight has increased from 100 million to 300 million.

Brilliant Port



EVER

(Make 3)

1550

THE SECTION FOR CARS, BIKES, BOATS AND EVERYONE ON THE MOVE



Learn to fly and conquer your fear
Page 47



Messages are bad for your driving
Page 49



A drive across the roof of the world
Page 49



SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27 1997

Saddle up for the superstore

Can't manage the weekly shop without a car? You can with a bicycle hitched to a hod, says Vaughan Freeman

It causes noise, pollution and congestion, but for many people the car is essential on at least one day a week. Getting to out-of-town supermarkets — and returning loaded with the family shopping — presents problems if you're walking or using public transport.

The answer could be to get on your bike — with a bright yellow shopping trolley hitched to the back. It might seem a low-tech alternative to today's computer-laden cars, but it could point the way to our future transport.

The weekly drive to the superstore can be up to four or five miles before queueing nose to tail with the rest of the traffic to get into the car park. Then comes the trail through the aisles, before loading up carrier bags at the checkout, loading the bags into the boot, queueing to get out of the car park again, then decanting the whole lot out and into the kitchen after the drive home again.

Now that Transport Secretary John Prescott has officially sounded the death knell for the two-car family, and has rephrased Norman Tebbit by urging us to get on our bikes, trains and buses, the anti-car tide is gaining momentum.

Which is why the Tesco Bike and Trailer Shopping scheme comes in. The Tesco store on the fringes of Chichester in West Sussex has 600 parking spaces, but the hope is that more of them will stand empty after Tesco and the Chichester District Council joined forces to make it easier for customers to cycle rather than drive to do their shopping.

The scheme offers motorists and cyclists alike a new way to shop. Having paid £5 to join the scheme, members get free use of the gaudily yellow "bike

hods" which hitch to the back of their cycles using an ingenious but simple-to-use coupling.

It means shoppers need just load the hod at the checkout, hitch up, then unload it at home. And, because of the Chichester town planner's forward-thinking, shopping cyclists have the use of a network of cycle paths and traffic-calmed routes other towns would do well to emulate.

Tesco store manager Paul Tyson says: "Jeff Lander, the district council's senior planning officer, came to see me with some information, including the fact that about a quarter of the people locally do not have access to a car."

"He also showed me the bike hod idea. Clearly hanging carrier bags over your handlebars is not a safe way to go shopping, while regular cycle panniers are smaller and limited as to the amount of shopping they can carry."

The idea of a partnership to promote the bike-hods at Tesco's Fishbourne store seemed an obvious move. "The council and Tesco decided to enter a partnership to provide the bike-hods and the response has been terrific," Lander says. "A lot of people shop by bicycle anyway and the bike-hod allows them to carry far more, much more safely."

Designed to stand out in poor visibility, the hod can be fitted with lights for safer night riding. It is stable, says Lander, and the cyclist barely feels it there.

"The more traffic congestion grows, the more perhaps people will see it just is not worth getting the car out to do the shopping and think instead they should take the bike," Lander adds.

"The car has the clear advantage of having a boot. The bike-hod gives the bicycle

a boot, and means customers can load it in the supermarket and unload it at home, saving two lots of car loading which has to make things easier."

Tyson adds: "Realistically I don't think you are going to see the demise of the car as the main mode of transport, but if with schemes like this we can reduce the use of cars we can make an impact, because up until now there has not been an easy-to-use alternative to the car for doing the weekly shopping."

Using the bike-hod is surprisingly simple. The hitch is in effect a flexible rubber hose that slots over a short metal pipe fitted to the bicycle's saddle post. A pin keeps the hose in place, and this acts as an articulated coupling between cycle and hod.

The hod can carry up to 31 litres, and a weight that would take two adults to lift. Yet on the move you can cycle along merrily and feel almost as if there is nothing behind you.

The only problem is that you tend to forget that the hod is bins or so wider each side than the cycle, so squeezing through narrow gaps can be embarrassing. The hod soaks up bumps and kerbs without difficulty and is very, very stable.

The ultimate irony — a delicious one for Chichester fans of pedal power — is that many Tesco cycle shoppers will bike home along the Centurion Way, a dedicated cycle path running by a disused railway line which has for many years been the route of a possible road bypass for the area.

With the transport wind now set firmly against the car, Chichester's biking shoppers can expect their way to be car-free for many years to come.



Claire Edwards: "We've filled it with all sorts of shopping, including trays of beer. Every customer has asked about it"

HOD CARRIER

Greener, cheaper and healthier

■ CLAIRE Edwards is full of praise for the bike-hod. Claire, 23, who works at the superstore and has been demonstrating the system to customers: "We have been filling it up with all sorts of shopping, including heavy things like trays of beer. You don't even know you have got the hod on the 'bike, and when we have been demonstrating every customer has stopped to ask about it. It is a really good idea. If I lived closer to the store, I would definitely use one for my shopping."

■ HER reservations represent the key obstacle to the project's instant success — she lives nine hilly miles from the Tesco store, and at the moment her Vauxhall Astra remains favourite for the weekly shop ahead of 18 or so tough miles on two wheels.

■ IF YOU have the legs for it though, the hod system is simplicity itself to use, and a lot cheaper and healthier than a car. It is also far roomier than even the biggest pannier, although users are warned against carrying children or pets.

■ THE HOD must be returned to the Tesco customer service desk within three days, hopefully filled with old newspapers, empty cans, and bottles to complete the "green" recycling circle.

■ THERE were no problems on a warm September day, but the test will come as winter approaches, and rain, snow, cold winds and mud challenge two-wheeler customers whose alternative to a bicycle, is the warm cocoon of a motor car.

Brilliant Porsche leaves the Look-at-me-mobile behind in speed and style

The born-again 911 is a giant leap that drives like a dream, writes Ian Morton

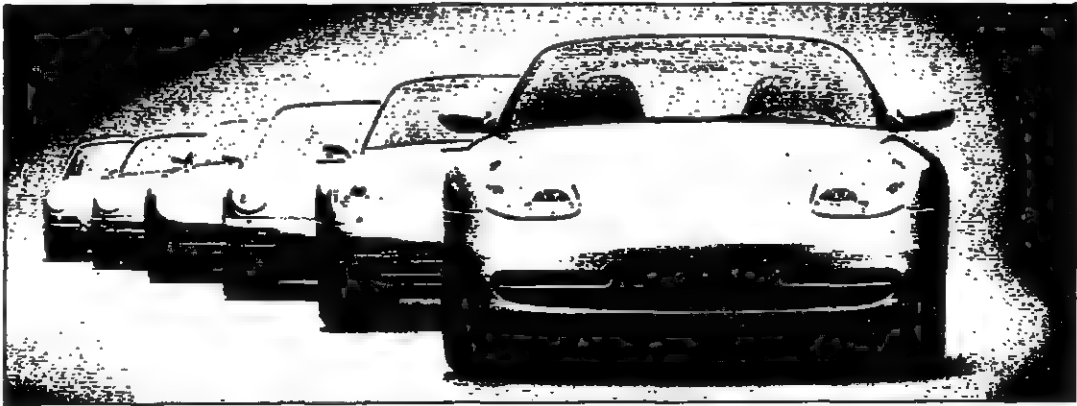
In 1963, when fiddler Stuttgart sports car firm Porsche produced a new rear-engined model based on its well-liked 356, they called it the 901. Peugeot promptly complained that the use of a middle zero infringed their established practice, so Porsche changed the zero to a 1. Courtesy of French meddling, the embryo icon became the 911.

Now, after 34 years of evolution during which the basic concept and shape have remained intact and Porsche has built a huge international sports car reputation — it now sells in 69 countries — the 911 is born again. It is a quantum leap above and beyond the archetypal raw-edged Look-at-me-mobile of the yuppie Eighties, a period which Porsche would now prefer to forget, despite its obvious cash-flow benefits at the time.

Though the car is new in every respect, there never was a moment

when Porsche executives considered losing either the unmistakable shape or the legendary designation. And purist customers need not fret. In every department this latest 911 is significantly better than the current four-year-old model. Technology director Horst Marchart reckons that, with suitable updating, it will be good for a dozen years. First version, here next month, is the Carrera Coupé at £64,950. Cabrio, four-wheel drive and RS models will follow.

Logic propels this redesign. Revered by enthusiasts but financially rocky, Porsche decided to reorganise its operation around two model ranges, the 911 and mid-engined Boxster, with simultaneous development and a high level of common parts. Though they aim at totally different customers, 911 and Boxster share almost 40 per cent of components, mainly at the front end.



Porsche 911: executives never considered losing the unmistakable shape or legendary designation

In addition, the 911's venerable flat-six, air-cooled engine had to go. Only a water-cooled multi-valve version of the unit would meet impending noise and exhaust legislation and improved consumption needs. While they were about it, they made engine and gear box shorter.

Add updated active and passive safety, extra steering and suspension

integrity, a mass of practical new design detail and a heap of new technology — there are 10 electronic control units reporting to a central computer on the car's "state of health" — and no wonder Porsche engineers needed a blank sheet. The result is a brilliant new chapter in the history of what many see as the car of the century. The 911 advances in every department.

Look at it. Seven inches longer and an inch wider, but weighing 110lbs less than the outgoing 911 (which remains available till next July), its bulk is sleek and athletic. Slip inside. There is more space in every direction though still not enough to accommodate adult legs in the rear and the control area is methodically laid out, daintily presented and easily used. This is now

PORSCHE 911


Engine: 3.4-litre, flat six, 24-valve water-cooled.
Transmission: Six-speed manual, five-speed auto with Tiptronic S.
Performance: 0-60mph in 5.2secs (auto 6secs). Max speed 174mph.
Economy: Combined 28mpg (manual), 26.6mpg (auto).
Equipment: UK specification still to be finalised.
Price: £64,950.

away in an instant. Porsche say it stops rocketing at 174mph — or 171mph in the five-speed automatic with Tiptronic — button controls on the wheel — and I believe them.

Feel it. Arrow straight down the motorway, and the steering nevertheless caresses and weighs each yard of road, softening the blips and sating the undulations in a way the old 911 never did. This one is a real long distance smoothie.

Better still, come the tight fast bends and it just goes round. If you doubted its abilities, you wonder why. Challenge the next bend more violently and wonder some more. For the more testing the corner the more accurate and communicative the steering and the more level and confident the squat of the car upon its redesigned lightweight suspension.

I did get a tiny twitch on one corrugated corner, but the traction control system nailed it in an instant. As for the brakes, Porsche developed them at Le Mans. The car hit 60mph from rest in five seconds and stopped dead in half the time.



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Figure 1. Schematic representation of the experimental design. The subjects were divided into two groups: a control group and an experimental group. The control group received a standard diet, while the experimental group received a diet supplemented with 10% of the total energy from fat. The subjects were then divided into two subgroups: a sedentary subgroup and an exercise subgroup. The exercise subgroup performed a 12-week exercise program. The subjects were then divided into two subgroups: a control subgroup and an experimental subgroup. The control subgroup received a standard diet, while the experimental subgroup received a diet supplemented with 10% of the total energy from fat. The subjects were then divided into two subgroups: a sedentary subgroup and an exercise subgroup. The exercise subgroup performed a 12-week exercise program.

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HOME GROAN 54

Borrowers seek amnesty over mortgage debts

WEEKEND MONEY

FINAL CHAPTER 53

Beginning of the end for Deutsche scandal



Anne Ashworth and Patrick Collinson discuss strategy with advisers to 'high net worth individuals'

Where super-rich really, really count

How many millionaires are there in the UK? Five thousand? Ten thousand? The answer is closer to 120,000, with the National Lottery alone producing nearly 500 so far and adding a further run to three every week. Showbusiness also continues to swell the ranks of the super-rich, with the Spice Girls being worth £4 million each at the last estimate.

There are also the members of the new Super Class, the accountants, lawyers and City dealers with earnings of £300,000 plus and bonuses that can exceed their salaries.

Reaching out to look after the money of this fast-growing band of millionaires and those close to achieving this status are the private client stockbrokers and asset managers who offer personalised, bespoke investment management services. Welcome to the world of "wealth management strategies" for "high net worth individuals".

At the top end of the private client investment management market are huge blue-chip houses such as Schroders, Mercury Asset Management, Newton, James Capel and Morgan Grenfell.

The basic cost per year for discretionary management, where the investment house relieves you of the burden of making your own decisions, is around 1 per cent of your portfolio, plus VAT, plus extras.

The type of service you can expect depends on how much money you have. If you approach Schroders with a £200,000 pile, you will be offered a discretionary unit trust service. The firm requires £1m before it will run a portfolio of directly-held shares on your behalf.

The high street banks are also keen to have their share of the high net worth individual market, offering fund management services through their Mayfair-based private banking divisions. Each of these clearing bank subsidiaries feels itself to be superior to its fellows.

Barclays Private Bank focuses primarily on the bosses of family-owned businesses, offering them



Spice work if you can get it: the Spice Girls have made it into the ranks of the multimillionaires and are now worth £4 million apiece, according to the latest estimate

corporate advisory services, as well as banking and investment management. Customers who are referred from Barclays branches have an average of £1 million invested.

Coutts, a division of NatWest, offers "integrated wealth management services", that is, banking,

investment management and estate planning. The bank, one of the world's leading providers of trusts, targets the wealthy young professional, "with a busy life and complex financial needs".

For those "exceptionally wealthy" customers with assets in excess of \$100 million (£61.73 million), Coutts

offers the de-luxe Latymer Service. Under the terms of a discretionary management service, you give authority to the manager to buy and sell investments on your behalf without obtaining prior approval on each and every occasion. The client can set whatever restrictions he or she wants — such as a ban on

investing in tobacco shares, specific shares which must not be sold and so on. The broker is then free to take advantage of market opportunities as they arise, without having to contact the client and ascertain their wishes.

A typical £1 million portfolio is likely to be 50-60 per cent invested

in a range of UK shares, with the balance spread between overseas equity and bond markets. As the total sum invested in an individual overseas market is unlikely to be large enough to warrant direct share investment, pooled vehicles such as unit and investment trusts are bought to gain exposure and

diversify risk. The service and administration should also be superior to that offered by a unit trust. A contract note is sent every time a transaction is effected, and detailed reviews and valuations are sent on a regular basis. Cash in the portfolio is also managed on an active basis to ensure that high interest rates are obtained.

Above all, the wealthy investor can expect the immediate attention of an investment manager at the other end of the line.

Dean Lush, director of Rothschild's private client division, said: "People with these sums of money are understandably upset if they are not treated individually. You mustn't be blasé about performance, but you downplay personal service at your peril in this business."

How much does it cost? Charges are typically a percentage of the total funds under management, with a sliding scale reflecting the amount managed, from around 1 per cent falling to as low as 0.2 per cent per year on large investments. There are also stockbroking commissions for each share purchase or sale which can considerably raise the manager's bill. These will be very high if the manager is a "churn and burn" man, who frequently switches in and out of investments, so hiding his mistakes and increasing his firm's revenues at the same time.

These fees bring no guarantee of superior performance. There are many tales of those whose fortunes have shrunk while in the care of some blue-blooded firm. Part of the problem may lie in the personnel. It is claimed that first-class minds are kept busy with pension money, while the second-rate are shunted into the private client department.

Previously it was difficult to assess whether a manager was doing a passable or a deplorable job, as there were no published statistics. However, WM, the performance statistics group, now prepares peer group benchmarks that allow investment managers to be compared with the competition.

Who would you trust? page 52

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Taxpayers told not to panic over looming deadline

Hundreds of thousands of people are waiting until the very last minute to fill in self-assessment tax returns. According to the Inland Revenue, only 3.7 million from a total of eight million people had returned their forms by Thursday. Those that fail to meet the deadline of September 30 will have to work out their own tax liability and must submit their forms and payment by January 31.

The Inland Revenue remains confident that it will receive between four million and 4.8 million self-assessment tax returns by the end of this month.

Those that just miss this deadline, and are relying on the Inland Revenue to work out their tax liability, may not get their tax assessment notices before the end of January. An Inland Revenue spokesman said: "What we have said about those that miss the deadline is that we do not guarantee that we will return the notices by the end of January."

Those that miss this final deadline face an instant £100 fine. They will also be charged 8.5 per cent interest on overdue payments.

Accountants is warning taxpayers not to panic. It points out that, if taxpayers should miss the end-of-the-month deadline, they can always get an accountant to work out what their tax liability is before the end of January next year. Richard Shooter, of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, said: "There has been a lot of publicity over the September 30 deadline, but the more important date is January 31."

According to a recent survey from Save & Prosper, the investment house, almost half of those people who had received a self-assessment tax return from the Revenue had not yet completed and returned it.

Almost half of those questioned (40 per cent) said that they already had or would choose an accountant to help them to complete their forms — with nearly one in three people saying that they would be interested in using a specialist tax service.

In response to the findings of this service, Save & Prosper has launched a special service to help people to complete their self-assessment forms. The service costs around £40.

CAROLINE MERRELL

Heroes peep into the sun

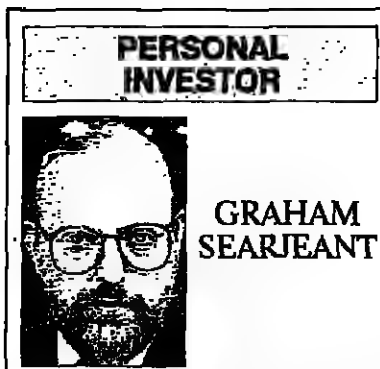
Shares in America's smaller companies have, overall, trailed limply behind blue chips in the long Wall Street boom. Now they are at last dancing to their own tune. At least they have been for the past couple of months. That is long enough to set analysts and salesfolk asking whether the same might happen here.

A survey by Baring Asset Management of its offices around the world reveals that small companies have fared as badly in Japan and continental Europe. The bursting of Japan's financial bubble sent investors fleeing for cover in the safest thing they could find, which was not third-line stocks.

On the Continent, also slower to climb out of recession, a representative smaller companies index has lagged big companies by two fifths since 1990. There are lots of oddities in badly hit sectors such as retail, property and building, with few in booming sectors such as banking and ethical drugs.

In the UK, stocks worth less than £250 million have been dull rather than disastrous for most of the past three years, since recovering from the last recession. But a big gap has opened since mid-March. Over the past six months the FTSE small capitalisation index has shown no gain, while the FTSE 100 has put on 20 per cent. True, prices have perked up over the past five weeks, but that has merely made good the losses of June and July.

In London, as on the Continent and even in New York, stock market prices have been driven by wholesale investment funds, often buying a country rather than a company. These funds may replicate a blue chip index or focus on a



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

few favoured sectors. That way lies neglect for more modest domestic outfits that are unlikely to have much interest for big investors beyond their borders.

Naturally, this neglect has been rationalised by analysts. Big multinationals have had more scope to cut costs, more resources to reinvent themselves than the supposedly nimble small fry. So their profits can keep growing faster than the economies in which they sell, or than companies that rely on their domestic economy. This may explain long-term rerating but hardly the change of fortunes since March.

That underperformance could now make the lesser breed a reasonable each-way bet. If the FTSE 100 flies onward and upward to 7000, as Natwest's Bob Semple projects, smaller stocks should be dragged in the wake by investors looking for something a little cheaper.

That is surely what is happening in America. Benign economic conditions help those who need stability most. If stock markets falter, investors may try to distance themselves from the blue chip

bubble. At least the little chaps do not have so far to fall.

The trouble with such generalities is that there really is no small companies sector and no average company. That is why, for instance, Barings can claim success for its Europe Select Trust when the "sector" has been a dog. The only thing that unites them is not being big. Even that is mere timing. Some are dying giants, others dillards valued chiefly for income. Tomorrow's heroes, the ones we all want to invest in, are always a risky, sought-after minority.

Investing directly in riskier small companies requires homework, or a broker you can trust. There is a strong case for spreading risk in a fund, but even here, since there is no sector, you rely more than usual on a fund manager's skill. Professionals rate Credit Suisse Smaller Companies and Invesco UK Smaller Companies among several decent unit trusts.

As an each-way bet, normal investment trusts have extra appeal. They sell at a cautious average discount of 15 per cent to net market value of their portfolios. The Perpetual and 3i Smaller Companies trusts look sound. Ivory & Sime's UK Smaller Companies and UK Discovery, which is committed to minnows like the AIM Trust, have more speculative appeal. The £3 billion 3i itself offers exposure to lots of unquoted companies but is expensive, swept up in the popularity of banks.

There is plenty of choice in trusts, as in small company shares, but avoid those with oddities in their capital structure. There is enough risk already to offset the potential rewards to come.



Check out the charges before handing over your cash

Who would you trust with your millions?

Even those who have toiled to acquire riches can sometimes find their wealth too much of a responsibility. Millionaires want someone to guide them in their search for an investment manager and call on the services of an intermediary.

Anthony Yadgaroff, of Allenbridge, a firm of advisers based conveniently in Mayfair, takes aspiring clients on a round tour of suitable managers. He urges them to research the market thoroughly and to assume responsibility for their cash. His most difficult task is to lower people's expectations: "They see advertisements for the top-performing unit trusts and believe that their money can also grow by 20 per cent in a year."

Investment management firms will put forward their most charming and personable employee to pitch for the account in the knowledge that the personality of the front man can clinch the deal. But Mr Yadgaroff recommends that his client meets not only the clean-cut marketing man but also the fund manager who will be in charge of the money.

Mr Yadgaroff also advises a

close examination of the charges: "It's a little-known fact that some firms of managers have targets for the amounts of stockbroking commissions that they have to earn. This means that they may be tempted to undertake unnecessary deals."

Simon Philip, a partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm, has the job of

guiding National Lottery winners on their investment options. He says that, in the majority of cases, the winners are so huge that winners aren't interested in passing their money over to be invested in stocks and shares, and leave it in the bank instead. "We are talking about people whose views on finance are very different from people who say, 'may be investing money made from selling a business. Anything that smacks of risk puts them off.'"

The key thing for most wealthy people, however, is the quality of personal service. Mr Philip said: "You might imagine that investment performance is everything, but personal service is also vital, and more people get sacked for poor service than poor performance."

Some firms may be tempted to undertake unnecessary deals?

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Wild child of investment vehicles

Children do not always turn out as their parents hope. Kenneth Clarke planned that his brainchild, the corporate bond Pep, would be an unassuming investment. It would appeal to those nervous about shares but disenchanted with building society returns.

The erstwhile Chancellor envisaged that his creation would channel funds into Midlands engineering companies. Instead, the bond Pep has emerged as something of a sophisticated, frolicking *Heidi*-style on the beach in Barbados, as well as toiling away in Dudley.

More evidence of this complicated personality can be found in the yields available on bond Peps. From the outset, investors were discouraged from comparing building society rates with bond yields because Peps were more risky. Direct comparison would now be extremely difficult, however, as aspiring bond Pep



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

holders must look at both the running yield and the gross redemption yield. The former shows the current income payout, the latter shows what the income would be if the current portfolio were to remain unchanged. If this figure is smaller than the running yield (now a frequent occurrence) then this suggests that the contents of the Pep's portfolio are more speculative than those that Mr Clarke had in mind (see page 55).

Some popular Peps now contain

bonds issued by exotic foreign states. The Commercial Union Pep has a holding, albeit small, of Barbadian stock.

More complexities arise when the annual charges are examined. Some managers deduct these from income, others from the capital, a covert way of making the income more eye-catching. The result of all this is that an investment intended to be simple has become something comprehensible only to experts. In 1999 Peps will be replaced by individual savings

accounts (Isas), which are also likely to hold bonds. The current Chancellor must ensure that the Isa does not inherit the failings of its predecessor.

Seek good advice

THE infamous Bernie Cornfeld, now deceased, invented the fund of funds. The concept, though not the Cornfeld rapacity, lives on in the broker fund.

Many reputable advisers refuse to sell these high-charge schemes, arguing that they represent poor value. Others continue this profitable trade, claiming that no one would invest in broker funds if they were not a good deal. Not so. People buy broker funds only because they mistakenly believe that advisers put clients' interests first. The commission-hungry would surely find a way to circumvent any ban on these investments. The moral is always ask your adviser how much he stands to make.

Deutsche writes final chapter

Caroline Merrell reports on the end of a financial scandal that rocked Britain's investment industry

The final chapter in a financial scandal that rocked the investment industry more than a year ago was marked this week with a small ad in the press.

It revealed that Deutsche, the German banking group, no longer felt it necessary to guarantee to buy units in three European funds run by Morgan Grenfell, the blue-blooded fund manager. The advertisement said: "The funds have been trading successfully for a considerable period of time." This credit facility was set up by the bank after the suspension of the funds last summer, and the subsequent revelations concerning the activities of the funds' manager, Peter Young.

However, despite the resolution of the investment company's problems in the mind of Morgan Grenfell's owner, not all investors with holdings in the three trusts have been compensated.

Just over a year ago, Morgan Grenfell was forced to suspend dealing in the three trusts which were then worth a total of £1.4 billion. The

funds were suspended when it was discovered that they held a high proportion of unquoted stocks. These shares were contributing to extreme volatility in the trusts.

Mr Young was exploiting a grey area in rules concerning the level of unquoted stocks that unit trusts could hold. When the unquoted stock was investigated by the company and regulators, it was difficult to find. Mr Young was suspended from his £300,000-a-year job and the Serious Fraud Office was called in to investigate. When trading in the funds after the three-day suspension restarted, more than £200 million worth of stock was sold by panic-stricken investors, and the price of units plummeted.

Deutsche Bank stepped in with a credit facility to ensure that the fund had enough cash to meet any redemptions. The bank also bought out £180 mil-

lion of unquoted stock, and pledged to compensate the investors for losses.

Eventually, five top managers at Morgan Grenfell were sacked.

Frances Davies, head of pooled investment, said that there were about 90,000 unit accounts in the three trusts, and while most of the individual accounts have been compensated, some of those that held stock through nominee accounts have yet to receive compensation. Nominee accounts will have more than one investor. For example, Skandia has 40,000 investors who have holdings in the Morgan Grenfell European funds via other products — these investors have received compensation.

Ms Davies said: "Around £230 million will be paid out in compensation as a whole." She added that 85 per cent of the compensation money had

been handed out. The fiasco could cost Deutsche Morgan Grenfell £450 million.

One investor who has received compensation is Antony Levi, a 33-year-old fashion agent. He was paid about £200 compensation on his £2,000 investment earlier in the year. Savers could either opt for more units in the funds, or choose the cash. He chose the cash. He is, however, continuing to invest money in the trust. He said: "I thought it was better to keep the investment going. I am taking a long-term view. If I reinvested the money elsewhere, then I

would probably incur a whole new set of charges." He said the performance of his European trust had not been particularly good since the crisis last year, but he had decided to continue to hold it. He holds two other of Morgan Grenfell's unit trusts, which he says have performed much better. "The whole thing would put me off putting all my money with one fund manager again," he said.

Ms Davies said the whole fund had been substantially rebalanced since Mr Young's suspension. A high proportion of the unquoted stock had been sold. She said: "More than 70 per cent of the fund is now in mainstream quoted stocks." She said the company was working flat out to compensate the remaining investors.



Antony Levi was paid about £200 for his £2,000 investment with Morgan Grenfell

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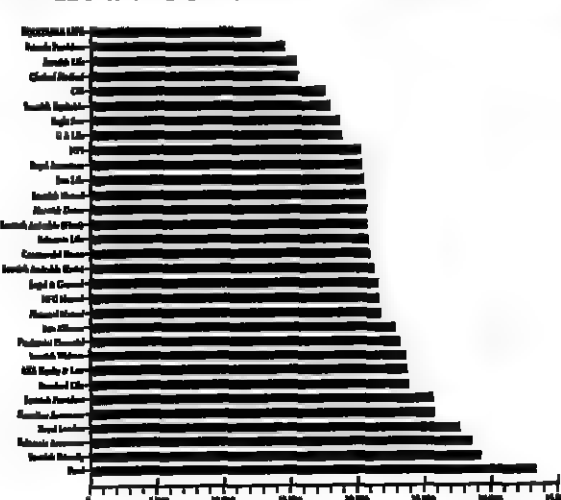
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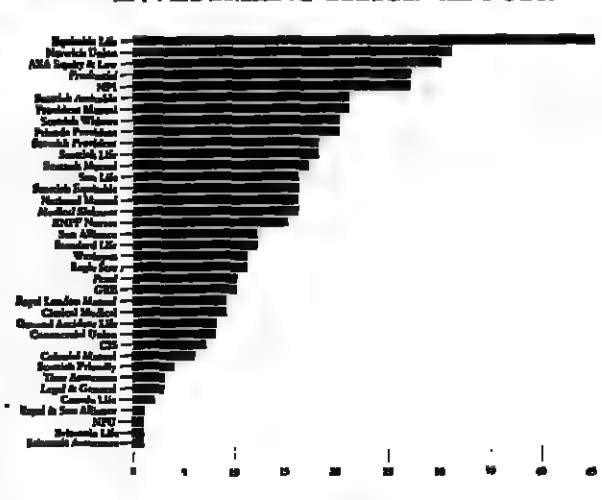
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Lesley Mobbs is one of a growing number who assumed their debts had been written off

Borrowers seek amnesty over mortgage debts

Sara McConnell
on a campaign
to stop lenders
acting years
later to recover
their money

Borrowers suddenly being chased for money they owe years after their homes were repossessed and sold at a loss during the recession are to mount a campaign calling for an amnesty for all those unable to pay their debts.

Ronald Severn, whose daughter and son-in-law, Phil and Lesley Mobbs, had their home repossessed by the Cheltenham & Gloucester in 1991, is spearheading the campaign. The Times revealed two months ago that the former building society was chasing the couple for debts totalling nearly £200,000 incurred in the early 1990s, although the family is living on state benefits.

Now Mr Severn says: "We want to bring pressure on all the C&Gs of this world. People are being left in ignorance for five years and the lenders write off the debt only to come alive if they think there's money." Mr Severn has enlisted the help of his MP and is calling on other borrowers to join him. He is

hoping the Government will put pressure on lenders to back off in cases where borrowers have little hope of paying any of their debt. He stresses he is not demanding that all debts be rescinded but argues that people are being discouraged from rebuilding their lives and getting jobs because they risk having their money claimed by the lender.

Phil and Lesley Mobbs are among growing numbers of borrowers who assumed their debts had been written off after their homes were repossessed but are now being pursued by lenders years later. Many people lost their homes through relationship breakdowns or because they lost their jobs as the recession hit. Others believed they could hand in their keys and claim on insurance taken out to cover shortfalls if the property was repossessed and sold. But the policy covers the lender although the borrower pays for it. In most cases, however, the policy covered only part of the shortfall, leaving lenders to pursue borrowers for the rest.

Since the Mobbses' story was published, Weekend Money has heard of a number of other readers in a similar position. Many have sought the help of solicitors. Tim Pratt of Lloyd & Pratt of Newport, South Wales, writes: "I have heard from two separate clients within a space of about three months that their former lender is trying to recover a shortfall from them after the sale of their home by the lender some five or six years ago. In both cases the debt has been put into the hands of solicitors who have written to the client threatening proceedings to recover the debt but inviting them to give details of their present personal finances and hinting that a one-off lump sum payment at a discount might be accepted in settlement. In one case the lender is the Alliance & Leicester and in the second case the Abbey National."

In another case, Michael Dunn, a Staffordshire building society borrower, contacted his solicitor after receiving a letter out of the blue from a debt collection agency demanding repayment of a shortfall nine years after his home was repossessed.

So can lenders do this? Yes,

they can. They have 12 years to chase borrowers for outstanding debts through the courts. How they do it is up to them. Some use debt collection agencies paid on results. Others use tracing agents. Some trawl regularly through credit reference records for clues that borrowers' fortunes have changed.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders' statement of practice says only that the lender "will notify the borrower either by letter or by telephone as soon as practicable of the amount of the shortfall". It continues: "The lender and the borrower will generally agree a repayment arrangement taking into account the borrower's current income and expenditure... if the borrower is unwilling to enter into an acceptable voluntary arrangement, the lender may use other enforcement remedies via the courts to seek repayment."

The C&G makes no secret of its policy of "active arrears management". If it has sold a property at a shortfall and failed to get any payment or agreement to pay from the borrower, it will "monitor" the situation for as long as it takes. It will contact borrowers directly and will wait in the wings until it judges that there is more chance of getting a payment.

Other lenders too will keep close tabs on borrowers. The Abbey National says: "We will continue to pursue debts although it must be based on the future possibility of the individual paying. It can take years. It's in everyone's interest to resolve outstanding debts and we will do deals and aim to get a settlement."

The Alliance & Leicester gives warning that it is "not a soft touch". If people refuse to make contact it will send in its solicitors. But it does not hire outside debt collection agencies, choosing to handle negotiations directly. John Caine, Alliance & Leicester's communications director, says: "It would be commercially stupid to have a stand-off. We would rather have an ongoing relationship. Retaining existing customers is cheaper than getting new ones."

Woolwich borrowers who try to disappear could be found by tracing agents, says Frank Bartlett, head of group lending. "If people have disappeared, we will look through their file and see if there are other addresses or details, such as an employer's address. If the trail has gone cold we could use tracing agents. Most have been dealt with within a couple of years and there wouldn't have been a conscious decision to delay."

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Shore thing, but CU's personal equity plan holds a small amount of highly speculative Barbadian and Mexican bonds

Age Concern joins the world of corporate bonds

Gavin Lumsden finds some managers risking fund capital

Investing in corporate bond Peps became cheaper this week with new deals from Legal & General and, surprisingly, Age Concern. However, disturbing signs have emerged that some fund managers may be risking investors' capital in their search for a high income.

Investors have poured some £3 billion into corporate bond Peps since their introduction just two years ago, attracted by the chance to earn about 7.5 per cent income tax-free while keeping their capital secure. So far investors have done well out of most corporate bond Peps. According to Microcap, a statistics provider, only one of the 39 corporate bond Peps around two years ago has failed to provide a positive return on a £6,000 investment (the maximum you can put in a Pep in one tax year).

Investors in Aberdeen Global Bond Pep, however, have badly been handed their money back since August 1995. Even if they reinvested the £579 of income back into the fund, they have still been left nursing a £26 loss, a dismal performance. Another seven Peps distributed modest amounts of income but left investors with a capital loss. For instance, investors who put £6,000 in the NPI High Income Bond two years ago would have had £824 income but would have only £5,856 of capital left in the Pep. This kind of capital loss can be a problem because it means there is a smaller pot of money left to generate money.

This still leaves 31 funds that have achieved their aims. Strangely, top of the pack is another fund in the Aberdeen stable, Aberdeen Fixed Interest, which has actually added £695 of capital and handed out over £1,300 of income. Other strong performers achieving the double whammy of income and capital growth have been M&G Corporate Bond, Henderson Preference & Bond and Commercial Union Monthly Income Plus.

The latter has just been chosen by Age Concern to be its first foray into financial services. Commercial Union's corporate bond Pep is currently yielding a high 7.96 per cent.

and is one of the few Peps to pay monthly. Because of this service the Pep has been relatively expensive. Age Concern, however, has got the insurer to halve its initial fee to 2 per cent and throw in some life cover. If investors die within five years of taking out the Pep, CU will return the original investment to their estate. Its annual charge, however, remains at 1.25 per cent. Contact: 0800 455 400.

Legal & General also did its bit for investors this week when it renamed its Extra Income Profile Pep simply Corporate Bond Pep and slashed the annual charge from 1.25 per cent to 0.5 per cent. As there was no initial charge it is now the cheapest corporate bond Pep available. Its nearest rivals are Virgin Income and Fidelity Moneybuilder Income which both charge a 0.7 per cent annual fee.

Low charges allow investors to get more for their money without taking on more risk. Cutting the annual fee by 0.75 per cent has enabled L&G to raise the yield on its Corporate Bond Pep by a similar amount to 7.5 per cent. If it had raised the yield without lowering the charges it would have had to target higher yielding stocks, which are inevitably more risky. In spite of their name corporate bond Peps can invest in a wide range of assets, some of which are more risky than others, and mix overseas stock with more familiar UK investments. In addition to bonds, many of these Peps will include preference shares, which aim to pay a higher dividend to investors, and convertibles, bonds which can be converted into shares at certain times.

Pensioners might be interested to learn that Commercial Union's Pep holds a small amount of highly speculative Barbadian and Mexican bonds as well as some worthless paper from Barings, the bank which had to be rescued after being sunk by Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader.

A good way of checking how much risk the fund manager is taking is to look at the difference between a Pep's gross redemption yield (GRY) and its running yield. The GRY, also known as the estimated total yield, shows what yield would be produced if the portfolio was left unchanged. The running yield shows how much income the Pep is currently producing.

“If investors die within five years, CU will return the stake to the estate”

If the running yield is much higher than the GRY, there is a risk that your capital may suffer in the future.

Most corporate bond Peps have a GRY about 0.5 to 0.7 per cent higher than the running yield, reflecting the impact of their annual charge. A few, however, have a much wider difference and might be worth avoiding.

According to Baronworth Investment Services, a financial adviser which monitors corporate bond Peps, GT Global's High Yield Pep currently has a GRY of 4.88 per cent and a running yield of 7.21 per cent, nearly five times the gap that most of its competitors have. GT Global explained it was because it takes its 1 per cent annual management fee from the fund's capital rather than the income it produces. Charging to capital is controversial among financial advisers because it is an artificial way of boosting the amount of income investors receive and can endanger capital.

Mike Webb, the company's

head of unit trusts, defended the company's practice, although he agreed there was an increased risk to holders' original investment. “We launched the Pep for people with an income requirement and are delivering that income in the most tax-efficient way. The benefit of charging to capital is that we do not have to go for as high-yielding stocks as those Peps which charge to income in order to generate our yield.”

He calculated that the running yield was 6.25 per cent before charges were taken, much closer to the GRY figure. To be fair, the Pep is actually in the top 20 of corporate bond Peps delivering income and capital growth. Mr Webb said this reflected the fact that it only invested in A-graded stocks, the top band of investments.

Nevertheless, concerns remain. Britannia Fund Managers' Gift & Fixed Interest Pep charges the same fees to capital as GT and has a yield differential of nearly 1.2 per cent, itself a relatively high figure but much better than GT's. Britannia says the running yield has risen recently after an increased investment in corporate bonds.

Equally worrying is the Murray Corporate Bond, which in spite of charging to income has a running yield of 8.89 per cent, the highest among all corporate bond Peps, and 1.5 per cent higher than its GRY.

Richard Elliott Lockhart of Murray Johnstone, the fund manager, denies that the company is taking too much risk in its search for income. He says many of the bonds it holds have seen prices fall and yields rise after recent tax changes which have forced City institutions to become sellers.

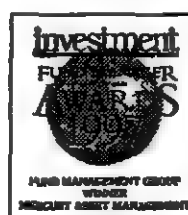
Whatever the reason, investing in bonds is a complicated business. If you are not seeking particularly high income you are probably best picking a low-cost corporate bond Pep from a fund manager with a track record that takes its fees from the income before passing it on to you.

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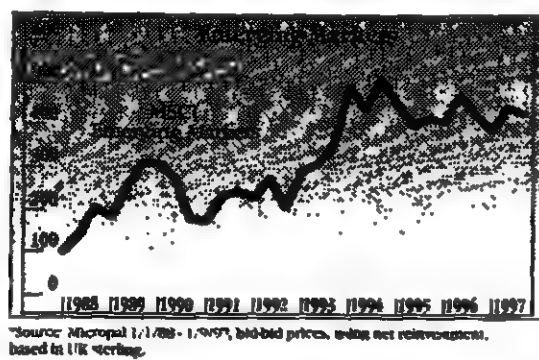
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Clare Stewart explains the science of investment disciplines



George Soros, left, and Warren Buffett, masters of investment, relish the opportunities when markets are uncertain



Alchemy for the 20th century

INVESTMENT
A GUIDE FOR BEGINNERS

George Soros made a mint betting against the pound in 1992. The famed investor Warren Buffett has cleaned up on numerous occasions to make him one of the wealthiest men in the US.

These and others, such as the late Sir James Goldsmith, who have emerged with pots of gold after forays into the stock market or foreign currency speculation, are frequently described as modern-day alchemists.

Rather like alchemy of the medieval variety, the assumption is often that there is some big secret out there waiting to be discovered. Once you have cracked it, runs the thinking, you can expect to be rich as Croesus as your investments soar in value.

But alchemy, whether using ancient or modern techniques, can be rather more complex. So much depends on adding just the right amount of leg of lead or wing of bat to the cauldron, and making sure you get the gas mark setting just right.

Stock market science is a complex discipline with numerous areas of specialisation, all of which try to understand and, as far as possible, anticipate key movements in share prices and so provide pointers as to when to pile in and when to sell up.

Traditionally, analysts have come to their conclusions about the value of a share based on a detailed evaluation

of the company's performance. But technical analysts or chartists tend to look at the price first and the explanation after. They look at trends in a company, sector, foreign currency or even the whole stock market's price movement as the basis of their research, working from the assumption that past movements provide the basis for predicting the future, and that long-term patterns can be identified.

Guides such as the *Schwartz Stock Market Handbook* (Burlingame Publishing, 01453 731173, price £22.95), for example, provide a month-by-month guide to stock market trends which highlight the months that have proved the most and least profitable for investors.

Chartists focus on changes that are driven by the actions of a wide spread of investors, so are less interested in why investors are choosing a particular share to buy or sell than when such trading is taking place and at what price. Such observations are expressed as charts showing price movements in linear or bar-chart form.

A number of patterns within price movements have been identified, which, on the basis of past experience, may indicate that a rising share price is about to peak or that it has bottomed out, hence it is the time to buy or sell that particular stock.

Investment, as with any discipline, has numerous theories. One particular theory that is often referred to is value investment. In recent times this has been most identified with Warren Buffett, who turned Berkshire Hathaway, his investment vehicle, from a struggling textile business to a conglomerate where profits last year soared to \$2.49 billion.

In 1965, when Mr Buffett took control of Berkshire Hathaway, its shares were traded at about \$18; today its shares are among the most expensive on the US stock market, trading at more than \$40,000 each.

Such is his influence that his current \$2 billion move into US Treasury bills rattled investors, who saw it as a precautionary manoeuvre ahead of a fall on the high-flying stock market. His reputation is built on the success of value investment Buffett-style.

which means looking for companies offering real value that have been overlooked by general buying trends in the market, to look for high earnings and to take a long-term view on shareholdings.

The Sage of Omaha's foresight was shown this week by the \$1.4 billion profit he turned on his stake in Salomon, the US investment bank.

His demonstrably successful approach stands out against the short-termism often seen among speculators and the proverbial City trader solely focused on securing the next bonus package.

Mr Buffett is unconcerned by sudden changes in the stock market. "Investors should love volatility. You like huge swings in the market because that means more stocks will be mispriced. It opens up opportunities," he told his company's annual meeting this year.

Mr Soros, another figure awarded guru status among investors. In 1992 he hit the headlines when his betting against sterling saw the pound knocked out of the European exchange-rate mechanism and netted him around £1 billion.

Now he is involved in a row with the Prime Minister of Malaysia over the activities of currency speculators in the unstable Asian currency markets. He also made news speaking at the International Monetary Conference this week, when he gave warning of an end to the current boom on global stock markets.

Mr Soros's brand of investment science bases decisions on the bigger picture - not on individual stocks but on currency changes and market fluctuations.

He is associated with spotting opportunities at the bottom and top of the market or currency cycles. He says: "I am particularly keen on investment theses that the market is reluctant to accept. These are usually the strongest. Remember the saying 'The market climbs on a wall of worry'."

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Most parents would do anything to protect their children. Yet 25 million children in Britain are treated in hospital for accidental injury each year. Of these, 10,000 suffer a permanent disability. Now Cigna, the insurance company, is offering accidental injury insurance for children.

The insurer does not claim that its policy, Firstcover, will even begin to compensate for a serious injury, nor will it pay for private medical treatment. But it says that a cash payment can help a family to cope with the stress and extra costs which can occur once medical treatment is finished. The parents may have to take unpaid leave from work, pay for childcare while they make hospital visits or even make modifications to their home to cater for the injured child.

Firstcover costs £2.75 a month for one child, or £5 a month for all the children in the family, which is hardly going to break the bank. But it is still worth considering exactly what cover policyholders get for their money. The policy pays £40 for each day that the insured child spends in hospital.

HIT OR MISS

up to a maximum of 365 days. It also pays out single sums of cash for permanent disabilities of varying severity. For example, £2,000 for facial disfigurement (where the scars affect at least 20 per cent of the face), £10,000 for loss of a finger or big toe and £25,000 for a thumb. Blindness in one eye, total loss of hearing in both ears or a leg below the knee will result in a payout of £50,000.

The maximum payout of £100,000 is for loss of (or loss of the use of) a leg above the knee, a hand or arm, total blindness in both eyes, total organic paralysis and total loss of intellectual capacity.

These benefits seem competitive compared to similar products on the market. However, it excludes dental damage—an injury that is relatively common and likely to incur costs for the parents.

Chris Latham, a chartered insurance practitioner with Byrne Williams, independent financial advisers, thinks Firstcover is a good buy. But he adds: "Adult accident policies often extend free cover to children. It is worth parents checking if their policies already cover their children."

Mohan Moorjani, a member of DBS, the independent financial advisory network, says that parents may find it more cost-effective to buy hospital cash cover for the whole family from a company such as HSA, rather than buying an individual policy for the children.

Score: ★★
Products graded from ★ (poor), to ★★★★★ (outstanding).

JILL INSLEY



Playboy financier Bernie Cornfeld, who was dubbed "king of the fund of funds", liked to live the high life

Product offers double whammy of charges

Time could be running out for controversial investment funds that often combine poor value with lousy performance.

Broker funds are effectively "funds of funds" run by independent financial advisers (IFAs) on behalf of their clients. The fund of funds concept was invented by Bernie Cornfeld, the financier, in the late Sixties. However, because they are a portfolio of funds or unit trusts, the individual investor pays two sets of management charges—one levied by the IFA company and the other by the IFA.

The Personal Investment Authority, the watchdog for small investors, is expected to warn advisers at the end of next month that it intends to tighten up the way such funds are sold.

The funds are so controversial that some IFAs refuse to sell them, saying it is impossible to pretend to be impartial while recommending a product of their own. Graham Hooper, of Chase de Vere Investments, said the double layer of management charges, which often amounts to 3 per cent per annum, is the real headache for investors. He said some funds had already gone out of business after the PIA's announcement earlier this year that it was reviewing existing regulations.

Mr Hooper said: "These funds would have to perform very well to beat other funds which do not have such high charges. Unfortunately broker funds not only have double fees, they also underperform. We made a decision not to have our own broker fund because we felt it would prevent us from being impartial in our advice if we recommended it."

As the small investors' watchdog prepares to tighten up on the sale of 'funds of funds', Marianne Curphey assesses their future

Richard Cockcroft, head of market practice and training and competence at the PIA, denied that the PIA intended to put any funds out of business.

"Not all funds have poor performance," he said. "What we want to do is raise the standards of those in the market." The board of the PIA is expected to issue a statement of policy on the issue by the end of October but this will not be legally binding. Any statutory regulations would have to be introduced separately, Mr Cockcroft said.

However, Amanda Davidson, a partner with Holden Meehan, the IFA, was sceptical about the concept of broker funds providing good value. "We do not offer them. I believe the attraction for the advisers who do sell them is that they provide a regular income for the IFA involved."

Another problem with the funds is that they are not tax-efficient. Mr Hooper said: "Personal equity plans are much better for investors because they are free of income and capital gains tax."

Stephen Lansdown, joint managing director of the Bristol-based IFA Hargreaves Lansdown, does offer one

offshore broker bond. He expressed "mixed feelings" about the concept. "Clients want advisers to manage their funds for them and switch into and out of sectors to gain the best returns. It makes sense for them to carry out transactions on a pooled basis and as long as the charges are transparent I do not see why they should be banned from the market altogether."

"If their performance is poor, clients should vote with their feet and go somewhere else. It is wrong for the PIA to act as judge and jury."

Investors who want to check whether their funds are offering a good or a bad deal can use a yardstick such as the FTSE 100 index or average of UK managed funds.

Chase de Vere has made a comparison of broker funds over a five-year period and has found that even the best performers trail managed life funds.

For example, for the five years to the end of August, this year, broker funds returned an average of £1,723 compared with an average return of £1,936. According to HSW Hindsight, a company which provides statistical information on trusts and funds, the top broker fund, from Albany, returned £2,119 on an initial investment over five years, while the top managed life fund, Reliance, returned £2,632 over the same period. The figures are based on an initial investment of £1,000 with income reinvested.

The broker fund from Royal & SunAlliance Charles Stanley gave investors a return of £2,021 over the same period, compared with the Hambro Assured managed fund which returned £2,394.

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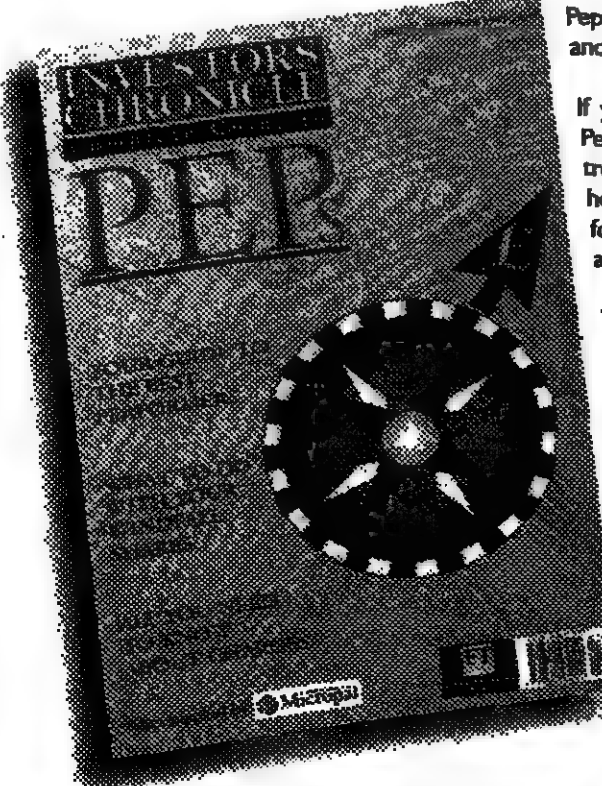
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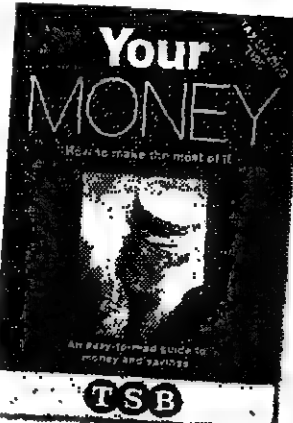
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Snowed under: a good set of clear records will mean you are less likely to be daunted by your tax return and more likely to avoid paying too much

John Givens highlights important issues for people starting up their own business

Becoming self-employed involves keeping many people happy, no one more so than the taxman. Most people who have made the leap from the relative comfort of being on someone else's payroll to being responsible for each penny of income will know there are many things to worry about on setting up a business, particularly in the early months.

But understanding your tax position and what the Inland Revenue expects of you before you start your new business should be made a priority. Not only will it make you more confident about being self-employed, but it will also free your mind and time to concentrate on other important issues.

Taking responsibility for your own taxation can be daunting and complicated, although with a little bit of time and effort it need not be.

The Inland Revenue has teamed up with the VAT Office and the National Insurance Contributions Agency to produce an easy to understand booklet called *Starting Your Own Business*. It outlines the basic rules relating to income tax, national insurance contributions and VAT, giving you all the information you need to know to get your business up and running, including forms to let the Revenue know that you are self-employed.

ALLOWANCES

Self-employed people are entitled to claim the same tax allowances as those who are employed and have their tax affairs looked after by their company. Everyone can earn up to £4,045 in a tax year — which runs from April 6 until April 5 the next year — without paying any income tax at all. In addition there is a married

Taxing times for the self-employed

GO IT ALONE TAX

couple's allowance of £1,830 a year which can be claimed by the husband, wife or split between the two and gives tax relief at a rate of 15 per cent.

This means a married taxpayer claiming the allowance would have their tax bill reduced by a set amount of £274.50 a year, or £22.87 a month. After your personal allowance, the first £4,100 of taxable income is charged at the lower rate of 20p in the pound, which means as an unmarried person you can earn £8,145 a year before you start to pay tax at the standard rate, currently 23p in the pound.

All your earnings are taxed at the standard rate on income of between £4,101 and £26,100 a year. After this earnings attract tax at a higher rate, 40p in the pound. By adding in your personal allowance of £4,045 this effectively means you will only become a higher-rate taxpayer if you earn more than £30,145 in a tax year.

EXPENSES

Self-employed taxpayers can offset certain expenses against income tax, which means at the end of the tax year the

amount of tax you owe the Inland Revenue will be calculated on your business profits rather than just earnings.

These costs are known as revenue expenditure and refer to the day-to-day running costs of your business. The Inland Revenue states that to be allowable for tax purposes this expenditure must be incurred wholly and exclusively for the purpose of your business and as a rule of thumb if you can answer yes to the question "would I have this expense if I was not carrying on my business?" then the chances are you are not allowed to claim it against tax.

Obvious business expenses include office rental, heating, lighting and telephone bills, advertising expenses and travel costs and you can deduct the total of all these payments from your annual income before you calculate your tax bill.

Other expenses are not so straightforward, however. For example, the taxman will allow you to claim the cost of entertaining staff but not customers and normal domestic expenses like food and clothing are strictly off the menu for tax deductible allowances.

countants for free basic advice (0171-920 8683).

N.I.

When you become self-employed you will also be responsible for paying your own national insurance.

The self-employed pay two types of national insurance: Class 2 and Class 4. Class 2 payments are the basic flat-rate contributions, currently £6.15 a week. Class 4 contributions are based on profits between £7,010 and £24,170 a year and charged at a flat rate of 6 per cent.

Class 2 payments can be paid every quarter or by direct debit from your bank account every month, while Class 4 contributions are calculated at the end of the tax year when your business profits are known. How much national insurance you pay will affect your right to claim state allowances in the future.

VAT

You need to register for VAT only if your annual turnover is more than £48,000. If you are VAT registered you will need to add value added tax — currently 17.5 per cent — on to all the invoices you issue to people who have bought from you, unless your business deals in one of the areas exempt from VAT, like food or books.

The VAT office will ask for a VAT return every three months and you must pay promptly the amount of VAT you have added to your invoices during the quarter. If you have bought supplies where you have been charged VAT, you can claim this back by offsetting the amount against your tax bill or asking the VAT office for a cheque if you have paid out more VAT than you have charged customers.

RECORDS

Everyone who is self-employed must keep records of all income and expenditure to show the taxman. If you don't you may end up paying more tax than you need to or, worse still, the Inland Revenue may launch a full-scale investigation into your business's tax affairs.

DEADLINES

Under the new self-assessment system you are obliged to fill in a tax return every year, showing details of income and expenditure.

After this you have two options. If you want the taxman to calculate your tax bill for you then you must make sure your completed tax forms are sent to the Inland Revenue by September 30 in the year following the end of the tax year on April 5.

If you want to calculate your tax liability by yourself, you have until January 31. If you are having problems with your form this weekend, ring the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Call in the professionals

Emma Bagnall knew exactly how she would cope with her potential tax minefield when she became self-employed at the beginning of April — she called in an accountant.

The 32-year-old graphic artist decided to turn freelance after she was made redundant by a tabloid national newspaper after just four months. She was concerned that during the 1996-97 tax year she had worked as an employee, earned other freelance income and spent a period of time not earning at all when she was studying in Florence.

Rather than face the trauma of explaining this to the taxman, she decided to leave it to the professionals.

After handing over expense

receipts and details of her income, Emma, of Stoke Newington, London, let her accountant get on with things. She said: "I don't understand all the ins and outs of how to calculate my tax, although I have a fairly good idea."

"However, my situation was slightly complicated, so I thought I would get an accountant to do my tax return for me. It saved a lot of trouble and effort and made sure I got what I am entitled to and pay the right amount of tax."

Emma, who is currently on assignment at *Cover*, the newly launched general interest magazine, paid £240 for the service and is now expecting a tax refund, although her accountant has told her this is likely to be in the region of £80 and not the £2,000 she had

hoped for. Also, like a lot of self-employed people, Emma needs to reassess her pension arrangements now she is going it alone.

Although she took out a personal pension with Friends Provident when she was 25, paying net contributions of £100 a month, this was frozen when she joined the occupational scheme of a former employer and she has yet to restart her contributions.

She is also looking at the need to insure herself against being unable to work because of illness or accident, with permanent health insurance and critical illness cover being considered to provide an income if the worst came to the worst.



JOHN GIVENS Bagnall: tax calculations proved complicated

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Get better value when you buy your annuity

Marianne Curphey looks at the options for people who are approaching retirement and are ready to draw their pensions

Choosing the right pension is difficult enough, but once you are close to retirement another difficult financial decision awaits: how and when do you choose an annuity?

An annuity is a contract for an insurer to supply a regular stream of income from the retirement fund you have built up over your working lifetime. Most annuities have an "open market option", which allows you to buy a pension annuity from any company you choose.

However, many insurance companies offer poor-value pension annuities. They get away with it because prospective pensioners are unaware that they can shop around for the best deal. Annuity Direct, an independent adviser based in London, calculates that annuities provided by top companies pay up to 40 per cent more income than those from the worst companies, although the difference is often around 15 per cent.

If you have a final salary scheme with your employer, you do not need to worry about an annuity because the scheme will pay you lifelong monthly benefits. However, if your pension is run as a money purchase scheme, in which your contributions and those of your employer have built up an individual fund, you need to buy an annuity. This also applies to personal pensions and to plans into which you paid additional voluntary contributions.

Money purchase schemes are becoming increasingly popular, and below we look at the options available if you are in one of these schemes and need to shop around for a pension annuity.

Q How does an annuity work and how much tax-free cash can I take?

A An annuity is a contract with the insurance company which pays you a regular income until you die in return for the pot of money you have handed over. The older you are when you buy your annuity, the higher the level of income paid by the annuity.

The insurance company is effectively betting that you will die before your fund is exhausted. Your income comes from a mixture of investment returns on the fund and capital from the fund itself. If you die before the capital is exhausted, the insurance company gets to keep the remainder.

With a personal pension the tax-free cash you are allowed to take is 25 per cent of the accumulated fund. For self-employed pensions before July 1988, the tax-free cash will depend on your age.

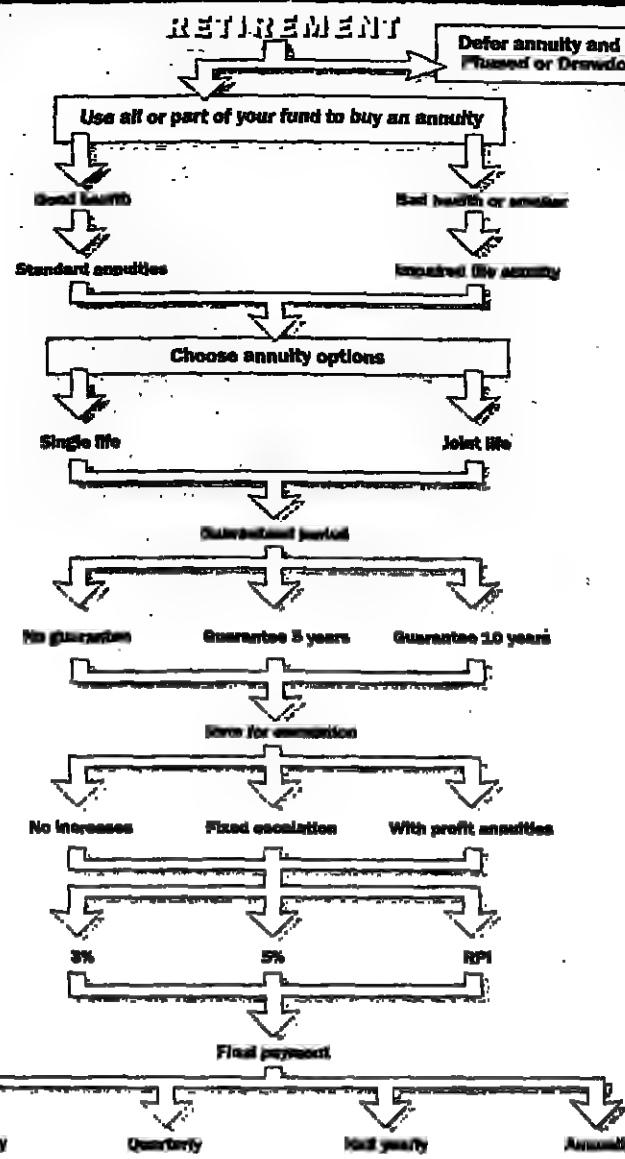
The income you receive from the remainder of the fund once you have taken your tax-free cash is taxed in the same way as earned income, so you pay tax at your highest rate.

Q Is an annuity the only option for the fund I have built up?

A No, you can opt to buy an income drawdown plan which lets you take cash from your plan every year, or you can go for a phased retirement plan.

Pension drawdown allows you to delay buying an annuity up to the age of 75. You can withdraw up to 10 per cent of the value of your fund every year. If you die,

RETIREMENT DILEMMA: HOW TO CHOOSE AN ANNUITY



the capital returns to your estate. Any tax-free cash which is to be taken must be paid out at the start. This option gives you flexibility over the amount of income you draw. The risk is that while you are delaying the purchase of your annuity, the stock market may fall. This would affect the value of the funds you were holding in your pension pot. You have to buy an annuity at age 75.

Phased retirement allows you to buy a number of smaller annuities at different times. This is useful to people who want to retire from work gradually. Each year you take a proportion of tax-free cash and a proportion of your annuity. This method is tax-efficient and your beneficiaries will receive any money left over.

The drawback is that you are leaving the bulk of your savings in equity-based investments, and although they may return 20 per cent or more in a good year, they may also be years when the stock market falls.

Q Does the income paid rise in line with inflation?

A Only if you request it. If you choose an index-linked annuity, payments in the early years of the contract's life will be lower. You need to be in good health to benefit from the higher payments which will be paid in the years to come. There is no point in forgoing benefits in the early years if your health is bad.

William Burrows, of Annuity Direct,

says these annuities are useful for people who are worried about the effects of inflation. "Whether you choose this option depends very much on your personal circumstances," he says. "If both a husband and a wife buy an annuity at age 65, at least one of them is likely to be alive in 20 years' time, when a sum that seems large now will have been eroded by inflation."

As an example, an escalating annuity which increases payments by 5 per cent per annum, or which is linked to the retail price index (RPI), is likely to reduce your initial income by one third. It takes about ten years for payments from an escalating annuity to catch up with those from a level annuity.

Q What can I do if my health is poor and how do I shop around?

A Impaired life annuities are available for people who have a medical condition or who smoke. The initial payments are much higher for people with a heart condition, diabetes and high blood pressure. Such annuities are provided by the Pensions Annuity Friendly Society and Sun Life.

The best annuity rates are quoted in Weekend Money. You can buy direct or use an annuity broker such as the Annuity Bureau, Annuity Direct and William Burrows's new advisory service. Mr Burrows recommends Prudential, Canada Life, Equitable Life, Sun Life of Canada and Norwich Union.

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£ _____ per annum (min. £500)

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Bar chart: *Offer to bid, net income reinvested 1.8.87-1.8.97. Source: Micropal. Excluding UK. Five year performance to 1.8.97: Jupiter Income +261% (1st out of 79 sector funds); FTSE All Share +145%; Jupiter European +205% (2nd out of 108 sector funds); FTSE European Index Ex UK +155%; offer to bid, net income reinvested. Source: Micropal.

To: Investor Support, Jupiter Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Knightsbridge House, 197 Knightsbridge, London SW7 1RB.

Please send me further information on: The Jupiter Income/European Funds ☐ The Jupiter PER ☐ Jupiter Unit Trusts ☐

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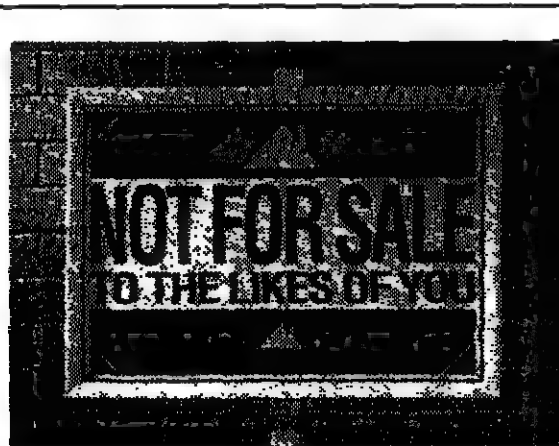
- Is yours a with-profits policy?
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Surf the Net with help of Which?

If you are hesitant about surfing the Net, the latest publication from Which? Ltd could help. The Which? Guide to the Internet, priced £9.99, unravels the Net's complexities by explaining what it can do and what the jargon really means. As well as describing how you can perform basic tasks, the guidebook outlines how to choose between the numerous services and software packages available. Which? says that the book will also help users to understand Net etiquette - how to be courteous to other travellers on the information superhighway. More advanced users of the Net are explored, for example the ways in which businesses can benefit. Included with the book is a 30-day trial for Which? Online, providing independent consumer information on CD-Rom. The cost of the book will be refunded if the Online service is subscribed to. Call Which? Ltd on 0800 252100.

Cowenbury Savings Society has raised its savings rates for the second time this month. Rate increases will apply on its two postal accounts, with effect from Monday. For customers with an investment of

more than £5,000 in a Postal 50 Account, the rate is now 7.35 per cent, a rise of 0.10 per cent. For those investing more than £40,000, a rate of 7.60 per cent gross per annum will be paid. Minimum investment is £5,000 and 50 days' notice is required for withdrawals. First Instant Postal Account annual rates have been increased from 7.00 to 7.10 per cent gross per annum. No withdrawal restrictions apply. Call 0345 665522.

Yorkshire Bank has also improved its rates on four savings accounts with immediate effect. The new gross rates on the Premium Plus account are as follows: below £5,000 - 3 per cent (no charge), £5,000 to £9,999 - 5.30 per cent (0.30 per cent increase), £10,000 to £24,999 - 6.25 per cent (up 0.40 per cent), £25,000 to £49,999 - 6.40 per cent (up 0.45 per cent), £50,000 to £1 million - 6.60 per cent (up 0.40 per cent). Other customers affected by the rate rises are Three Month Premium and Instant Access Cashmaster account holders. Rates on the Yorkshire Bank Tessa have risen 0.25 per cent at each investment tier.

LIZANNE ROSE

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME

Rates as at September 25, 1997

Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.05
5,000	AIG Life	6.27
10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
2 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
5,000	Hambro Assured	6.40
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.61
3 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.70
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
10,000	Hambro Assured	6.45
50,000	Hambro Assured	6.55
4 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.00
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.35
5 Years		
1,000	Hambro Assured	5.95
5,000	ITT London & Ed	6.55

Source: Chamberslain de Bock 0171-494 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

SAVERS' BEST BUYS

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sainsbury's Bank 0800 405060	Instant Access	Instant	£1	5.50
C&G 0800 742437	Instant Transfer	Instant b	£1,000	7.00
Coventry BS 0345 665522	First Instant	Postal	£5,000	7.10
Alliance & Leicester 0845 8088860	First Cte Inst	Postal	£10,000	7.50

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Albion 30	30 day p	£10,000	7.15
Chelsea BS 0800 132351	POST-Inst 40	40 day p	£5,000	7.30
Coventry BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day p	£5,000	7.35
Legal & General Bank 0500 111200	60 Direct	60 day p	£10,000	7.60

Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
First TESSAS (Tax Free)				
Principality BS 01222 344188	5 year	£2,500	7.65	Yly
Harley Economic BS 0800 838811	5 year	£500	7.60	Yly
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505	5 year	£3,000	7.80	Yly
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1850	5 year	£9,000	7.55	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Credit Cards	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 668000	Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	NIL
Co-operative Bank 0800 108000	Advantage Visa	0.64%N	7.90%N	NIL
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829400	Base R linked MV	1.00%G	12.70%	NIL

PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

Personal Loans	APR	Monthly payment on £5,000 for 3yrs with insurance	No insurance
Direct Line 0181 580 9996	12.80%N	£183.75	£188.38
Hamilton Direct Bank 0800 303000	12.90%	£189.98	£186.65
Alliance & Leic Corp 0960 626262	13.30%	£187.73	£167.56

NB: A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, N = introductory rate for a limited period, P = Pay Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

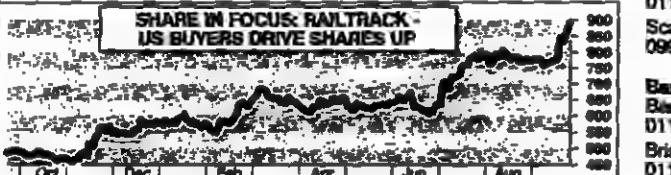
Source: Moneyfacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)

PBS

Fixed Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Birmingham Midshires 9.375%	125.45	7.432	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley 11.625%	152.55	7.820	100.13	10,000
Bradford & Bingley 13.000%	170.51	7.824	100.20	10,000
Britannia 15.000%	170.73	7.814	100.42	1,000
Coventry 12.125%	138.98	7.511	100.75	1,000
First National 11.750%	151.82	7.740	100.25	10,000
Leeds & Holbeck 13.375%	176.09	7.585	100.23	1,000
Newcastle 10.750%	140.26	7.516	100.32	1,000
Newcastle 12.625%	165.61	7.823	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock 12.625%	164.75	7.863	100.14	1,000
Skipton 12.875%	169.54	7.584	100.48	1,000

Floating Rate	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
Cheshire (30/09-27/03) 9.04083%	120.00	100.00	1,000	
First Nat (22/09-20/03) 9.98355%	105.00	100.00	1,000	

PBS = Permanent Interest-bearing shares
Source: ABS AMRO House Govest - 0171 801 001



UNIT LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

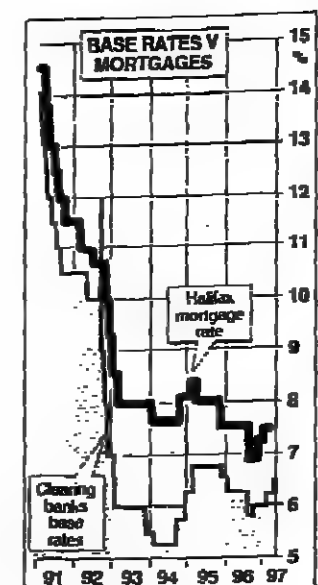
AFGON LIFE ASSURANCE	Bid	Offer	Way	Ytd
Admiral Fund, Edinburgh EH12 9BE	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Balanced	80.00	90.00	+10.00	
UK Equity	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Property	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Fixed Interest	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Money	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
International	100.00	110.00	+10.00	

AMER LIFE	Bid	Offer	Way	Ytd
Admiral Fund, Edinburgh EH12 9BE	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Balanced	80.00	90.00	+10.00	
UK Equity	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Property	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Fixed Interest	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Money	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
International	100.00	110.00	+10.00	

AMER LIFE	Bid	Offer	Way	Ytd
Admiral Fund, Edinburgh EH12 9BE	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Balanced	80.00	90.00	+10.00	
UK Equity	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Property	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Fixed Interest	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Money	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
International	100.00	110.00	+10.00	

AMER LIFE	Bid	Offer	Way	Ytd
Admiral Fund, Edinburgh EH12 9BE	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
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Property	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Fixed Interest	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
Money	100.00	110.00	+10.00	
International	100.00	110.00	+10.00	



NATIONAL SAVINGS						
	Gross rate	At tax rates 20% 40%	Min/Max investment	Notice	Contract	
Ordinary A/c	1.50	1.20	0.90	10-10,000**		0845 645000
Investment A/c	4.75	3.80	2.85	20-500**	1mth	0845 645000
Income Bond	6.50	5.20	3,902.00	25-20,000**	3mth	0845 645000
First Opt Bond	6.25	5.00	3,751.00	20-20,000**	8day	0845 645000
44th Issue Cert.	5.35			10-10,000	1mth	0845 645000
Children's Bond	6.75			25-1,000		0845 645000
Gen Ext Rate	3.51			100-250,000		0845 645000
Capital Bonds	6.85	5.32	3.99	100-10,000	8day	0845 645000
11th Ind Linked	2.75			10-10,000	8day	0845 645000
Pension Bonds	7.00	5.90	4.20	500-500,000	60day	0845 645000

* Best LTD (1.40) p.c. of tax free, not add for up to £100 * Unlimited additional ridges for annualised receipts * 1.5m free * Rates gross and net guaranteed when held for 5 years

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PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), guaranteed 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Equitable Lf.....Level	£ 9,534	£10,462	£11,675
Standard Lf.....Level	£ 9,224	£10,316	£11,732
Canada Life.....Level	£ 9,177	£10,257	£11,757
Sun Life.....Level	£ 9,135	£10,270	£11,772
Sun Lf of Can.....Level	£ 9,137	£10,195	£11,635

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential.....Level	£8,643	£ 9,457	£10,649
General.....Level	£8,443	£ 9,270	£10,644
Canada Life.....Level	£8,470	£ 9,293	£10,641
Equitable Life.....Level	£8,595	£ 9,291	£10,620
Norwich Un.....Level	£8,491	£ 9,228	£10,515

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential.....Level	£8,246	£8,860	£ 9,742
Equitable Life.....Level	£8,277	£8,813	£ 9,547
Canada Life.....Level	£8,303	£8,867	£ 9,558
General.....Level	£7,965	£8,620	£ 9,517
Norwich Un.....Level	£8,075	£8,619	£ 9,404

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies	4.85	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Newbury 01535 43676	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth
Mansfield 01246 202055	5.25	£15-100k	95	Further dec apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120				3% discount for 1 year

Source: Bank of Ireland 01189 510100 3% disc 6 mth

Halifax plc 01422 333333 3% disc-30.9.99, 0.5% cover-10.10.04

Larger lenders, loans and first-time buyers tables by Day & Guille Ltd 01783 880488

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Finer points of a borderline case of mis-selling

From Mr P. E. Perham

Sir, Am I alone in having difficulty in assessing the correct methods of deciding if a case exists for pension mis-selling compensation? Five years ago I transferred to a personal pension following redundancy. The projected benefits for the personal pension gave figures far in excess of the frozen final-salary scheme of my previous employer due to growth rates and annuity rates being laid down by Laidro at that time. Several changes have occurred since that make me think I might be worse off.

Pension projections five years ago were based on annual growth rates of 8.5 per cent and 13 per cent. More recently, however, due to reduced inflation, these have been reduced to 6 per cent and 12 per cent, and projections use a reduced annuity rate.

I have achieved a 9 per cent growth rate on my pension and am aware that I need a 12 per cent rate to meet the final-salary scheme of my previous

employer. Assuming an optimistic 3 per cent terminal bonus, I would be a borderline case. We now learn tax concessions are to be removed, which will probably mean a failure to meet the 9 per cent in the future (ie, certainly worse off).

If future inflation, growth rates, annuity rates and terminal bonuses, plus varying tax rates are so flexible and unknown, can someone tell me on what basis pension holders should assess if they are a case for compensation? Is the real reason that pension providers are dragging their heels over compensation due to the fact that it is an impossible task?

As an aside perhaps someone can also tell me how Westminster can justifiably put pressure on companies to compensate when much of the situation is due to government encouragement in the first place and possibly upon the latest Gordon Brown "raid".

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP PERHAM,
18 The Causeway,
Petersfield, Hampshire.

Nationwide rates itself

WE
PAY
BETTER
SAVING
RATES

The small
print adds:
...than we
did in 1947"



From Mr & Mrs T. C. Fisher
Sir, My wife and I have been investors with the Nationwide for a number of years as well as recently having our mortgage with them.

We noticed in your article (Carperbaggers pause to regroup, September 6) that a spokesman for Nationwide said that "we pay better saving rates". This simply is not the case. Recent press adverts show that the Nationwide rates lag up to nearly 1 per cent under

competitors. Our comment to the Nationwide is that investors are paying dearly for the slightly lower mortgage rate. As we retired early last year this loss of income is important to us and we feel Nationwide is at serious fault with its investment rates policy.

Yours faithfully,
T.C. & A.L. FISHER,
"Kellaton",
Devons Road,
Cary Park,
Babbacombe,
Torquay, Devon.

Pensioners deserve to keep their Pep benefits

From Dr R. Law

Sir, I believe that personal equity plans (Peps) should continue unaltered for the present generation of State old age pensioners, and offering the current tax reliefs. This benefit would thus gradually wither on the vine with this special generation of pensioners, many of whom fought for our country's freedom in military service for over five years, often far from home.

A change in rules would cause difficulties for many pensioners who rely on the dividends to eke out their pensions, and planned matters that way. They have already lost the tax relief on any private health insurance.

Any changes will also lead to the finance industry making additional charges.

Yours faithfully,
RON LAW,
1 Beechworth Close, NW3.

Abbey habit is spreading

From Mr S. W. McLintock

Sir, Karen Zagor's article (An expensive new Abbey habit?, September 6) claims that Abbey National account charges are, so far, limited to holders of the Instant Plus Account. "Abbey has promised not to bring in similar charges for the 1.6 million customers of its main account."

I have a bank account with Abbey National and the statement dated July 31, 1997, was endorsed with a notice that, from September 3, a £1 charge would be levied on mini-statements requested at a bank counter. It does, therefore, appear that, at least as

far as mini-statements are concerned, charges are already being levied on current account holders by Abbey.

Yours faithfully,
S. McLINTOCK,
24 Briarfield Avenue,
Bradford,
West Yorkshire.

Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot always give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

DIRECT LINE RATES

SAVINGS RATES	
Direct Line Instant Access Account	
BALANCE	ANNUAL GROSS RATE
£1-£1,999	5.55%
£2,000-£9,999	5.90%
£10,000-£24,999	6.35%
£25,000-£49,999	6.75%
£50,000-£99,999	6.90%
£100,000+	7.00%

All rates correct as at 1st September 1997.

Savers unaware of the self-assessment trap

From Mr B. Hypher

Sir, The discussion on self-assessment deadlines and difficulties has so far focused exclusively on those who have been sent forms, defined usually as self-employed and high earners.

I have read nothing about another category who are probably blissfully ignorant that they have also been caught up in self-assessment. This is the people with untaxed interest derived from National Savings products which pay interest gross, notably pensioners' bonds.

There must be large numbers of elderly people who are obliged to declare this interest but who do not realise that this means notifying the Inland Revenue, obtaining a self-assessment form and completing it to the same deadlines as everyone else in order to avoid the penalties.

I do my 97-year-old mother's tax return and am well

able to cope on her behalf. A phone call to her tax office in Cardiff (which deals with many pensioners) established that I now had to keep bang up to date and, yes, they have a self-assessment section.

In fact, contrary to many articles, I found the form well laid out and easier to complete than the old form - it took less than 30 minutes.

It would be interesting to explore Revenue policy on pensioners' untaxed interest, the lack of publicity on self-assessment for pensioners and whether the taxman will exact the standard penalties.

In the past one could let the untaxed interest matter ride for a few years and then catch up in one go. Now it seems one cannot.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD HYPHER,
40 Twemlow Avenue,
Parkstone,
Poole,
Dorset.

THE WEEK IN MONEY

BRADFORD & BINGLEY, Britain's second-largest building society is raising its variable mortgage rate by 0.25 per cent with effect from Monday. The move is a delayed response to the July and August base rate rises. The society has pledged not to raise its rate again until the end of January, even if base rates go up again before then. Borrowers of more than two years' standing will continue to pay a reduced rate of 7.75 per cent. The average variable rate amongst larger lenders is 8.45 per cent.

Revised GDP figures have revealed that the economy is growing at its fastest rate since 1989, heightening speculation that the Bank of England will raise interest rates again in November. Second-quarter GDP increased by an annual rate of 3.5 per cent, compared with a previously published estimate of 3.4 per cent. Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, said at the International Monetary Fund meeting on Tuesday that he is "optimistic" about the outlook for the economy despite the "threat" posed to inflation by strong consumer spending.

Women pensioners are

on average £780 a year worse off than their male counterparts, according to a survey by the TUC. Single female pensioners are likely to be the poorest of all. John Monks, General Secretary of the TUC, said that women historically have missed out on pensions partly because of patterns of employment as well as discrimination in occupational schemes. The TUC survey showed that only one woman in four is a member of an occupational pension scheme and more than three million people do not receive the full state pension.

Britannia Building Society insisted that neither life insurance policyholders nor savers and borrowers would lose out as a result of a £14 million provision for losses at its subsidiary, Britannia Life. The society began a review into profit forecasts for the life company earlier this year. The society said that bonuses on life policies which had already been declared would be unaffected by the provision. Britannia also predicted that it was likely to match at the end of this year the £37 million paid out to members under its loyalty bonus scheme in 1996.

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Emerging Companies	8.4.85	+763.7	1 out of 27	+139.5 AA
American Growth	21.4.84	+1335.3	1 out of 12	+144.3 AA
Far Eastern Growth	8.11.86	+409.9	1 out of 13	+130.3 AAA
Japanese Growth	30.11.91	+9.0	14 out of 73	+15.4 -
European Growth	8.11.86	+255.6	3 out of 5	+112.9 -
UK Growth	24.10.87	+400.4	1 out of 24	+144.7 AAA
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Latin American Growth	31.1.95	+56.1	11 out of 25	-

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Lizanne Rose shows how precautions plus insurance keep theft and fraud at bay



Making life more secure



Going to college or university for the first time should be an adventure — but not for the wrong reasons. Thieves often target student homes because they know freshers are more interested in having fun than bothering about house security.

Students do need insurance for the contents of their homes and rooms and often underestimate the cost of replacing belongings stolen or damaged. You may be covered under your parents' policy at their home: Nationwide and Royal & Sun Alliance offer cover to students if their parents are insured with them.

Some policies can be extended for a fixed sum: Eagle Star will charge £25 for a student to be added to the Homestar policy (although you will only be insured for £500-worth of possessions).

Always lock your room or house because evidence of a forced entry into your lodgings is normally required to make an insurance claim.

If you cannot be added to your parents' policy, you will pay more for living in an area classified as "high risk", such as parts of Manchester, Teesside, Newcastle and Liverpool.

If you are living in a shared house or flat in one of these areas, you can expect to pay £76 for £2,000 basic contents cover with Campus Insurance. With Endsleigh, it is £84. If your flat is in a "low risk" area, such as Plymouth, Swansea or Reading, the premium is £34 with Campus, £37 with Endsleigh. The hall of residence premium for all areas is £24 with both Campus and Endsleigh. Medical Insurance Agency (MIA Group) charges £22.

You need to confirm whether your computer equipment is covered. Campus Insurance includes £500-worth of computer cover with its basic policy. Students must buy Endsleigh's basic policy before qualifying for computer cover. Computers can be covered on their own through Royal & Sun Alliance. You will normally have to pay the first £25 of any claim.

PLASTIC CARD FRAUD: Under-25s are particularly at risk from plastic-card crime, mainly because of carelessness, according to Card Watch, the banking industry's card fraud prevention campaign. According to its research, 14 per cent of people allow someone else to borrow their card; 15 per cent rarely or never destroy their card when it expires; and 24 per cent put their wallets or purses on a bar or table in the pub. Report lost or stolen cards to your bank or building society immediately.

TELEPHONE BILLS: Nothing is more likely to cause friction in a shared house than working out the telephone bill. Ask BT for a fully itemised bill to keep track. A BT Chargecard enables you to phone from call boxes without heading cash. Calls will be charged to your parents' phone bill.

Many students now have mobile phones. Be careful to keep a close watch on your phone, as it is an easy item to steal. Use the mobile phone lock, if yours has one — a PIN number has to be entered before the phone can be used.

Mercury One 2 One has launched its Up 2 You pay-as-you-go digital mobile phone service. This has no minimum-term contract, no monthly service charge or monthly bills. Airtime is purchased in advance using a voucher system. However, it will cost you £199.99 RRP for the Up 2 You Pack with handset and calls are charged at a very steep 50p per minute.

TRAVEL AND TRANSPORT: Transport costs can be high, especially if you live in London where a single journey on the Tube is £1.20. Student rail and coach cards are well worth buying. A four-year Young Person's Railcard is being offered free by Midland Bank when you open an account there.

Visa has just launched TravelMoney, a new cash-machine card you preload with your holiday money. You can then withdraw it from any of Visa's 341,000 cash machines in 112 countries without having to convert currency in each country you visit. Call 01733 318900.

PARENTS: In spite of a maximum parental grant of £2,160 per year, students can leave further education owing around £5,000 in student loans.

A guide is available to help parents to plan ahead for their child's education and further education. It offers advice on how to fund education — nursery, private school, and university — and has tips on money management, paying less tax on investments and teaching children to handle money. Available free from Sun Life. Call 0117 989 9030 Mon-Fri.

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Classic way to save cash is to buy an ageing car

Merryn Myatt on the best options for students who want to go out without going broke

Earning how to budget is now as much a part of student life as expanding your knowledge of your chosen discipline. But you can cut your transport costs and cut a dash around campus in a car. The cheapest option and the one with the highest cool quotient is to buy a car made and registered before 1971. The trade calls them classics, others would call them bangers. Either way, they are exempt from road tax, so there's a £145-a-year saving to start with.

For £1,500 you should be able to get a model in reasonable condition, MoT'd and structurally sound.

Remember, old cars were made before built-in obsolescence became an article of faith with manufacturers. Why else do you see so many old Beetles and Morris Minors around?

The best place to start your search is a classic car show, which will not only give you some idea of the best models and prices, but will also put you in touch with a cheap source of replacement parts for later.

Once you know which cars interest you, it's well worth investing £12 to £20 joining the relevant enthusiasts' club. The cost of the membership will be more than repaid by the knowledge of other members and their delight in sharing it.

Reputable dealers will always have an old banger or two taken in part exchange. Offer him half the asking price. The dealer probably can't be bothered to shift it anywhere else.

Buying from the small ads in the back of classic car magazines is only for the knowledge-



Nicola Baker discovered that the insurance arm of the NUS offered her a good deal

STUDENT FINANCE

Although it is an offence for advertisers not to point out a car's faults, enforcing your rights may be difficult.

There is little point in buying a cheap car if you cannot afford to insure it. Premiums for 17 and 18-year-olds — assuming you can find a company that will even give you a quote — can reach four figures, often making the insurance ludi-

crously more than the value of the ageing wreck that it is supposed to be protecting.

Endsleigh, the insurance arm of the NUS, claims to be able to give 80 per cent of students a better deal than they could find anywhere else.

Nicola Baker, an 18-year-old from South Wales, will shortly be heading to Newcastle University to study for a degree in mathematics and accountancy. She approached eight insurance companies with her 13-year-old Ford Fiesta, valued at £750. Three refused to quote for comprehensive insurance for under-21s and four refused for third party, fire and theft.

Endsleigh quoted Nicola £462.17 for comprehensive cover and £264.25 for third party, fire and theft — both £100 less than the next best.

If your car is a "classic", you

may be able to improve on Endsleigh's quote by arranging your insurance through one of the hundreds of specialist classic car insurance companies that advertise heavily in the back of classic car magazines. They achieve their discounts, however, by catering for genuine enthusiasts who garage their cars and drive a limited mileage. They are not especially overjoyed by teenage student motorists, but they will look more benevolently on your case if you are a member of the relevant enthusiasts' club, which, incidentally, can often arrange still further insurance discounts.

With thorough shopping around, you should be able to pick up comprehensive insurance on a 25-year-old car, with limited mileage, worth about £1,500 for £300 to £350.

With fuel consumption — certainly on the smaller engines — everything you could hope for, and parts available ludicrously cheaply through clubs, magazines or a breaker's yard, your main financial problem will be depreciation.

Well, not quite. The Austin A30 cost £507 when launched in 1951, and the Ford Capri was £990 7s 10d in 1969, so you never know, you might even make some money when you come to sell at the end of your course.

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Austin 1300 GT Saloon	67-74	£300	£300
Ford Popular 1000 Saloon	59-62	£350	£250
Ford Cortina MkII GT	66-70	£1,200	£400
Morris Minor 1000 Saloon	56-62	£1,250	£250
Morris Minor 1000 Saloon	62-71	£1,400	£250
Morris Minor 1000 Traveller	56-62	£1,400	£250
Triumph Herald 1200 Saloon	62-71	£1,150	£350
Triumph Herald 1200 Saloon	63-67	£875	£225
Triumph Vitesse 1800 Saloon	52-66	£1,200	£475
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Volkswagen Beetle Saloon	67-77	£1,800	£550

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LITTLE HEROES 52

Graham Searjeant
on share prospects
for small companies

WEEKEND MONEY

CLASSIC CASH 63

Steering students
towards the best
deals on wheels



THE TIMES: PERSONAL FINANCE NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR



Millions of workers to go it alone

Self-employment is a growth area, with some 3.3 million people now working for themselves, and the figure is set to soar over the next decade as more companies use contract or casual staff.

Emma Bagnall, left, a graphic designer, is one of this new army of workers with a host of accompanying financial problems — organising tax, arranging pensions, negotiating with bank managers.

Go It Alone, a new Weekend Money series, will tackle every aspect of self-employment, including arranging cover against ill-health and accidents, and how to price your services.

Ignorance of the tax rules has meant that many self-employed people have found the new self-assessment tax returns a headache. This week, on page 58, we explain what the taxman will allow the self-employed to claim and how to put your tax affairs in order.

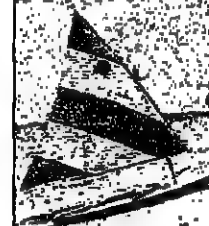
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WEEKEND MONEY
is edited by Anne Ashworth

Pensions claims hit crisis point

The pensions mis-selling crisis deepened this week as it was revealed that financial regulators were urgently reviewing the scope of the Investors Compensation Scheme (ICS) — the investor safety net set up by the Government to protect the clients of financial companies that disappear.

Overall, the costs of compensating those who were encouraged by life insurance salesmen and financial advisers to leave or not join their occupational schemes in favour of taking out a personal pension already look to be greater than the £4 billion originally estimated.

Policyholders who were mis-sold plans by financial advisers that have gone out of business or left the industry have to be compensated through the ICS — a scheme run by the regulators and paid for by the industry. The scope of the scheme is limited to £48,000 per compensation claim and to total claims of £100 million in any one year.

Claims against these firms are already beginning to mount. The Personal Investment Authority (PIA), the watchdog, has already found 7,000 possible cases of mis-selling, and it still has to

Caroline Merrell finds funds and deadlines for mis-selling compensation are severely stretched

analyse 168,000 cases. The ICS estimates that it could have to pay out on at least 16,000 compensation cases.

A spokesman for the scheme claims that it had looked at compensation costs, and estimated them to be an average of £9,000 per case, bringing the price of sorting out these particular ones to £144 million — more than the entire amount that the ICS has paid out since it was set up in 1988.

Last time the ICS looked as though it was going to run out of cash, the Treasury stepped in with a lifeline, to ensure that all investors could be compensated. The Treasury said: "We have not really considered what to do yet, as it is still a hypothetical situation."

The ICS spokesman said: "It is not a case that we will pay out to investors one day, and then stop paying out on the following day because we have reached the £100 million limit."

The £48,000 limit on individual compensation claims is also being looked at by regulators. Compensation for those who were mis-sold a personal pension by a direct salesman,

rather than a financial adviser that has vanished, will not be capped in this way. For instance, Pearl has paid out compensation of £500,000 to one victim of mis-selling. If this victim had bought his pension from a now defunct financial adviser, the ICS would not be able to pay out the full amount.

The painful process of reinstating those who were encouraged to give up their company schemes is only just beginning. The figures are astounding. The Treasury estimates that a total of around two million people could have been mis-sold a personal pension — one in three of all personal pensions sold.

The companies are concentrating their effort on reviewing the high priority cases — the dead and the old. Around 500,000 fall into this category. Work on finding the other possible 1.5 million has not even started.

Companies are already nearly one year over the original deadline set by the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) for sorting out the

priority cases. Only two fifths of these cases have been reviewed and 73,000 offered compensation totalling £452 million. Despite extreme pressure from Helen Liddell, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, some companies look set to miss a revised set of crucial deadlines set by the Government. Among those which look likely to miss the deadline is the Prudential, which has the highest number of mis-selling cases, at 60,000.

With the deadline for compensating 90 per cent of priority cases only three days away, Sir Peter Davis, group chief executive, has admitted that the company will probably fail to achieve this first goal. Mrs Liddell has said that she is very disappointed with the Prudential. If the pace of review does not pick up to her satisfaction, then she says that she will take extreme action. This could involve raising further powers through Parliament. She has also said that companies that fail to perform will be locked

out of any further plans to privatise state benefits.

Some of the biggest companies involved in the scandal have made the following progress: Gen Life, formerly General Portfolio, 9,419 cases for review, 3 per cent sorted out; London and Manchester, 7,513 cases for review, 17 per cent sorted out; United Assurance, 12,141 cases for review, 18 per cent sorted out; Pearl, 39,824, 19 per cent dealt with; CIS, 42,514 cases identified, 24 per cent sorted out; Prudential, 60,724 cases, 23 per cent sorted out; Lloyds TSB, 47,225 cases, 34 per cent sorted out; and Legal & General, 33,389 cases, 50 per cent sorted out.

Life insurance companies

are hoping to speed up the compensation process by offering guaranteed schemes — these are legally binding offers that policyholders will suffer no financial loss as a result of pension mis-selling.

Pearl, Legal & General and the Prudential are offering such schemes.

Although these have been criticised by lawyers acting on behalf of pension mis-selling victims, another ten companies have applied for authorisation to offer the plans. Norwich Union is tackling its problems by promising to reinstate pension mis-selling victims. Again this has the effect of rapidly reducing its figures.



Jayne Carvallo faces a year-long wait for compensation

Pressing for action after bad deal

Jayne Carvallo had the unfortunate experience of encountering an employee of NatWest while standing in the queue of her local branch of the bank in South London. She had worked for the local authority for 15 years, but had decided to move down to London to take up a job with a housing association. As an employee of the housing association she was not entitled to join an occupational scheme.

She said: "The man from NatWest said that taking out a pension would be a good way of earning extra money in retirement. He said it was a new way of saving money. It seemed like a good idea at the time."

The bank advised her to transfer her pension into a personal pension from Scottish Life in 1992. After a year working in London she moved back to the North of England in work for the local authority again. Her new job entitled her to join an occupational scheme. She was alerted to the fact

that she could have been mis-sold a pension from the press and television programmes and contacted NatWest in 1994. After a meeting between herself, NatWest and Unison, her union last year, the bank agreed that she had been mis-sold a personal pension, although NatWest did claim that the bank had tried to prevent the transfer from going ahead.

To add insult to injury last week she received a letter from NatWest saying that because she was not dead or retired she was considered to be a non-priority case. NatWest said it would take a further year to compensate her — four years after she initially complained. NatWest said: "We could compensate Ms Carvallo tomorrow, but we are still waiting for the scheme to provide us with information, and they are still waiting for clarification from the Department of Environment on certain matters."

CAROLINE MERRELL

Analysts expect a Rock-steady debut

Shares in Northern Rock, the demutualising building society which makes its stock market debut on Wednesday, could begin trading in a range of 410p to 460p, according to forecasts by some analysts. This follows strong rises in the share prices of banks and converted building societies in the market yesterday. At the top end of the scale, this could yield as much as £2,300 to each member.

Institutions and pension funds have been placing advance orders for the shares and City Index, the financial bookmaker, is currently quoting a price

range of between 423p and 433p. This is 20p up on the range earlier this week.

Some analysts feel the shares would be fairly priced even at 500p, bringing each member £2,500. John Leonard, of Salomon Brothers' banking research team, says he is a buyer at 425p or less.

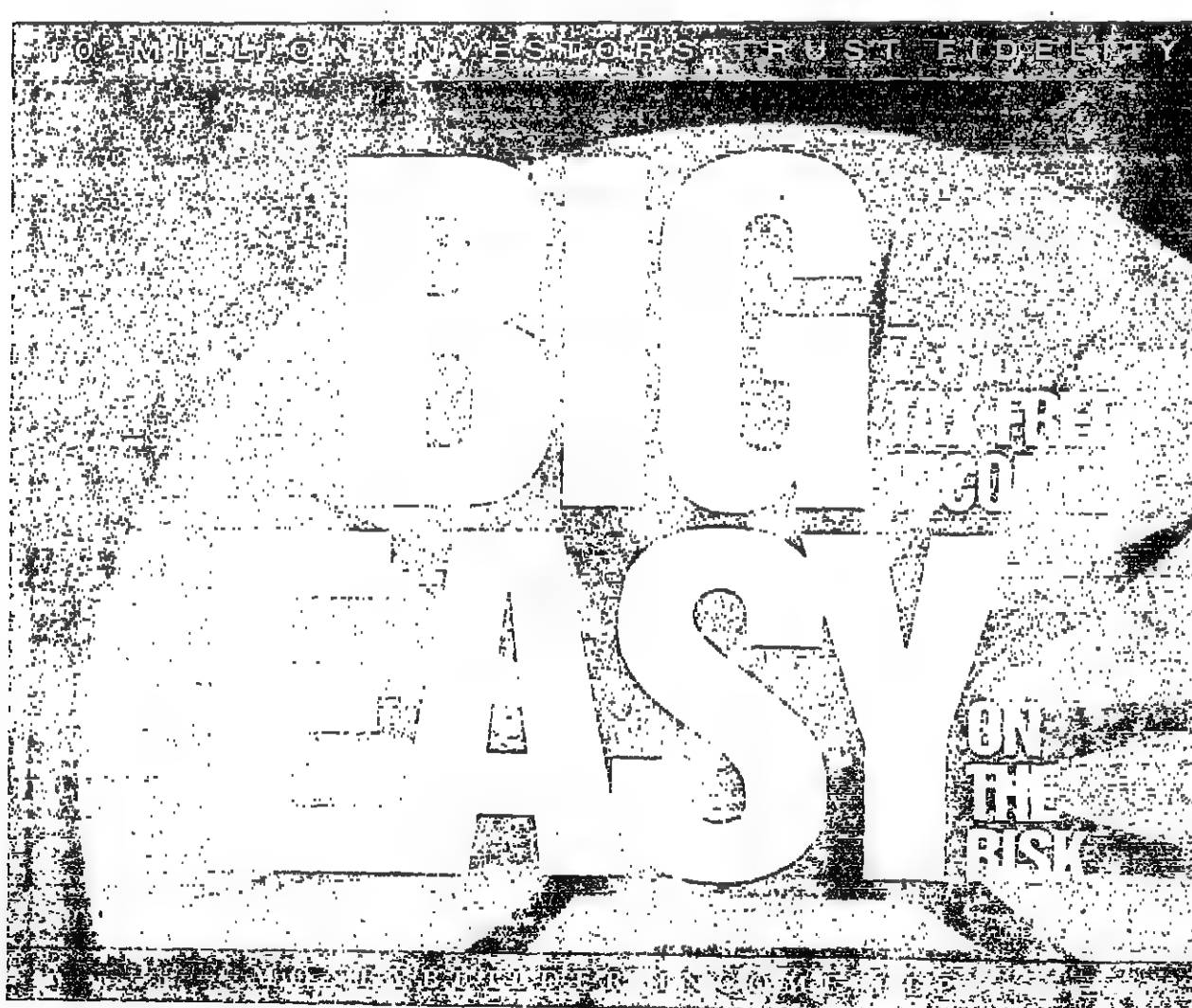
The market seems undaunted by news that more than 40 per cent of members intend to sell their shares immediately. Justin Urquhart Stewart, a director of Barclays Stockbrokers, recommends members hold their 500 shares. Jeremy Barstow, head of research at NatWest Stockbrokers, said the opening share

price could be around 410p, "provided there are no shocks in the market between now and Wednesday".

Northern Rock's share of the UK mortgage market is almost 3 per cent, compared with the Halifax's 20 per cent. Half of Northern Rock's new business comes from remortgaging.

There have also been bid rumours. Virgin, Marks & Spencer, Australian National Bank and Australian Mutual Provident have all been suggested as possible buyers.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



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Question of New bond compared

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Trousers head and shoulders above the rest

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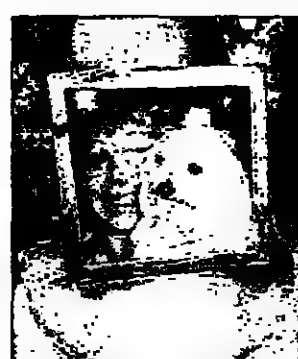
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Millionaire's playground in the sun for only £10 million

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Don't be wet, dive in at the deep end

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Win a Kodak digital camera worth £200

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THE TIMES WEEKEND

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 1997

Ordure, ordure: Michael Gove examines the animal magic of Peter Brookes. *The Times* political cartoonist

His pen dipped delicately in acid wit



Brookes's Porcupine (*Hiruntus caracorum*) When provoked, this unpleasant bit of homework backs into its foe and releases ink-tipped quills. A prickly cartoonist.

Every Saturday, for the past 18 months, Peter Brookes has been working his animal magic in the pages of *The Times*. In his series *Nature Notes*, the Circe of satire turns men into beasts for our amusement. The political cartoonist of the year has made the newspaper's back page the first stop for many Saturday readers with his series of inspired caricatures.

Michael Howard's populist touch at the Home Office was cruelly encapsulated with his depiction as the Giant Panther (*Mandatoris sentensis*); Margaret Beckett's suppressed socialism was caught with her transformation into a Painted Lady which "uses its top profile to blend in with new surroundings and to disguise the true colouring beneath".

The artistry and humour of Brookes's work has won him a loyal following among *Times* readers since 1981 and has now prompted the publisher Little, Brown to put the *Nature Notes* series between hard covers. Although it is Brookes's pitiless eye which delights his fans, some of the most enthusiastic purchasers of the volume are likely to be his skewered subjects. Like an accomplished seducer, Brookes manages by dint of his wit to endear himself to his victims even as he makes fools of them.

One of Brookes's most wickedly satirical subjects, the

former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo (Spanish Onion, *Portillista hubrista*) has been a fan for 14 years. He first bought a Brookes original in 1983 when he snapped up a caricature of Roy Hattersley, then Labour's deputy leader. Despite becoming a casualty of the caricaturist himself, Mr Portillo remains an avid collector. He enthuses, "It is wonderful how brilliantly he gets the trademark of a politician. With Major it was the blank glasses, with Blair it's the teeth and, in my case, I suppose my hair was a gift."

As well as admiring Brookes's talent for giving his characters the visual equivalent of a Wagnerian leitmotiv, a signature flourish, Mr Portillo also admires the cartoonist's political acuity: "He's so incredibly intelligent. Sometimes I've seen a cartoon that got to the heart of some mistake I made and I think, I wish he hadn't spotted that."

Brookes is not a typical Westminster-watcher. Hunched over his drawing-board in a corner of the *Times* office, or strolling towards lunch in a local pub, he certainly does not look like a creeper down the corridors of power. His beard, fedora and half-moon specs, Prince of Wales suit and suede loafers give him a half-boulevardier, half-bohemian aspect. This is good camouflage for an



It's dirty work — but someone has to do it: With his *Nature Notes*, Peter Brookes makes an honest living from the mess that is left behind by political animals

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"Don't worry, I won't get pregnant. You're Taurus, I'm Aries."

NEW LIGHTER CRISPER HOLSTEN PILS an easier way to change your life



Responding to the day's events with an appropriate cartoon is one of the most difficult newspaper jobs...

Continued from page 1
observer of political wildlife and also gives no hint of Brook's professional origins.

Before he first picked up a brush in anger, Brook's was being trained in another form of precision targeting: as a pilot in the RAF. The son of a service family, he joined up full of enthusiasm after leaving school, but even on the first day he was the odd man out. Of all those expected to manoeuvre huge blocks of steel delicately at high speeds through the atmosphere, Brook's remembers, "I was the only one who couldn't drive. I wasn't in the least mechanical. I suppose I should have realised it wasn't for me."

He persevered and learnt to fly RAF jets solo, although not always on the prescribed path: "I used to get lost all the time. Having flown myself and knowing what I did, I'm now terrified of flying. I took the family to the US this year and couldn't sleep the night before."

The time in the RAF was, however, far from wasted. As well as the camaraderie of service life, there was an opportunity to indulge lights that had previously been hidden under bushels. A nascent talent for drawing, which had never been properly tapped at boarding school, was directed in the RAF towards stage set designs and cartoons. Brook's artistic bent gave rise to suspicions that he was "bolshie" but also secured him a safe passage out of uniform and into art school.

After a year's foundation course in Manchester, he went to the Central School of Art in London, where he was a contemporary of Patsy Simmonds. It was the satire boom of the Swinging Sixties, "wonderful, a liberation after the RAF", and although Brook's was studying to be a graphic designer he found himself producing illustrations and cartoons for magazines such as *New Society*. An apprenticeship with a graphic designer turned into a studio-share as Brook's found his extra-curricular illustrations were starting to overwhelm the demands of his day job.

Although he did not then plan to become a full-time producer of free-

standing cartoons, Brook's was a disciple of some of the profession's household gods. He remains a particular fan of Illingworth and Pont, the 1950s and 1960s cartoonists, for their drawing style as much as their humour. Brook's other influences and enthusiasms extended backwards through Heath Robinson to Rowlandson and Hogarth, whose first-edition prints he has collected. Although happy to accept the challenge of illustrating work, Brook's natural bent was towards cartooning.

A freelance for much of the 1970s, Brook's was lured to *The Times* in the 1980s by Harry Evans, the then Editor. Hired to illustrate others' articles, Brook's occasionally enjoyed the freedom to give his slant on events with freestanding cartoons; but it was only with the accession of Peter Stothard to the Editor's chair in 1992 that Brook's took on the responsibility of providing a daily political cartoon.

The need to come up with a satirical slant on the day's events regularly prompts readers to ask if he ever runs out of ideas, but the deadline imposes its own discipline. "You just have to deliver," he explains self-deprecatingly, "and accept that some ideas are more duff than others."

Most recently he found it difficult to come up with an appropriate cartoon on the day of the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and although his representation of the Queen of Hearts was tasteful and poignant, he still believes it was "inadequate to the situation".

Tragic moments do not always find him faltering at the drawing-board. Events such as Dunblane have sometimes inspired his best work and Brook's believes "they have to be done" — situations like that demand a response from journalists. Others write, I draw. After Dunblane, half the readers who responded thought it was distasteful to have a cartoon on the subject, but half expressed gratitude that a cartoon had captured their feelings.

Another cartoon which drew venomous complaints concerned the bomb on a bus in the Aldwych, central London,

soon after an Israeli bus-bombing. Brook's had the figure of death standing at a bus stop saying: "Strange how you can wait ages for one, then they all come together."

The problem there is that you are making a serious point about the increasing incidence of this particular kind of atrocity using black humour," he said. "People think you are being frivolous when the exact opposite is the case."

Brook's, however, spends most days drawing humour from folly rather than a message from tragedy. He sees his task as "trying to get behind the posturing, sorting out the wood from the trees and getting to the nub of an issue or a personality in politics."

Some readers detect bias in every line but Brook's is unapologetic. "A cartoon is a comment, it can't be ambivalent. It may be a sort of arrogance for me to express my opinion, but it's satisfying when I've got a point across and readers respond favourably — or even unfavourably. I quite like it when readers complain."

Politicians responding favourably is a different matter. Although it is always nice to be noticed, Brook's is sometimes perplexed by his victims' vanity — seeing any portrait, however wounding, as a trophy. Not all politicians, however, react in the same way. Tony Blair, although careful not to express his own opinion too directly, confided in Brook's that his father was a fan. Peter Mandelson, introduced to the man who styled him "blossom" for one *Nature* Notes, restricted himself to a haughty look but confesses now to a sneaking admiration: "His witty and incisive cartoons, particularly on Saturday mornings, are always entertaining and amusing, if not sometimes a little below the belt. His portrayal of this summer's occasionally stormy events provided light relief and a diversion from other, less welcome, sections of *The Times*."

If there are politicians who strongly dislike Brook's work (and some approached for comments maintained a diplomatic silence), then they are wise enough to realise that complain-

ing could only make matters worse. Old hands are inclined to make a show of their enthusiasm, however sincere. When Baroness Thatcher was depicted as a Rabid Old Bat (*Federalis anathema*), her aides were on the phone first thing to order the original. "Oh yes, she did like the bat," one gushed, prompting Brook's to wonder if his pen nib would ever penetrate her thick skin.

Ann Widdecombe, the former Home Office minister, collects all her appearances, whether she is depicted as a religious fundamentalist or the Black Widowcombe Spider (*Somethingus ofthenights*). She accepts Brook's has been tough on the Tories but says: "Cartoonists will always be caustic about those in power, but I do still like his work. After all, I wouldn't spend good money on it otherwise." Ken Clarke, the former Chancellor, writes "charming" personal notes and Brook's work is part of a formidable collection of political art in the Clarke home. The Treasury team which works with Gordon Brown, his Labour successor, put in a bid for a cartoon of its boss but never followed it through. Brook's has a simple explanation for the different reactions of politicians: "Perhaps vanity is a Tory vice."

If so, it is not restricted to politicians. One of Brook's best cartoons earlier this year was a portrayal of Mr Portillo, quiffed, big-lipped and brooding, as Mick Jagger. Mr Portillo was amused and flattered enough to want to buy it. So was Mr Jagger. The Rolling Stone's purchase was the eloquent tribute of one Sixties artist still going strong to another.

From today, Peter Brook's *Nature Notes* will appear opposite the Letters page in the news section every Saturday.

Nature Notes is published by Little, Brown on Thursday at £10. An accompanying exhibition of the original cartoons opens on October 14 at the Chris Beetles Gallery, 8-10 Ryder Street, London SW1 0JF (0171-839 7351).

There will also be a special limited edition of *Nature Notes*, bound in full leather, with an additional drawing signed by Peter Brook's, priced at £100. For details, write to: Foundling Press, 61-63 Lant Street, London SE1 1QN.



Peter Brook: "It's satisfying when readers react. I quite like it when they complain"

Wines which age shall not wither

The white wine revolution of the late 1970s, driven by salesmen of refrigeration plants and resulting in super-clean, fruity flavours on to which oakiness was rather ineptly grafted, was followed by a revolution in red winemaking. This was inspired by the fact that some of the world's most influential producers of red wine, notably in Bordeaux, gradually came to realise that long-term storage of wine was becoming a distinctly minority sport, fraught with practical difficulties in an age when so many people live in centrally heated apartments.

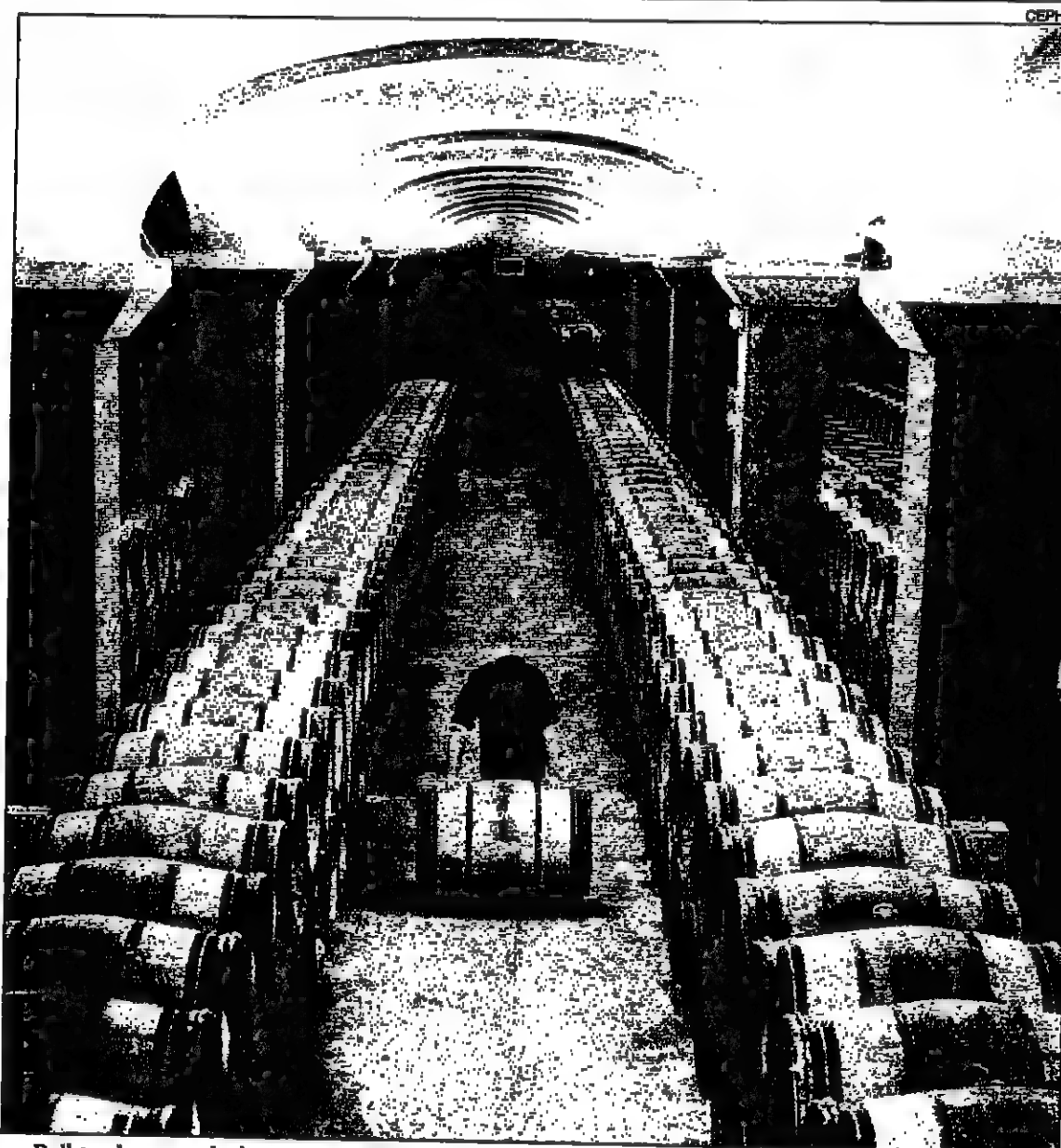
The excessively tannic, often rather acid style that had been traditional for young red Bordeaux may have inconvenienced nobody in an Edwardian age when it was normal to keep such wines in a private cellar for several decades until they tasted more supple, but it was at odds with the pace of late-20th-century life.

The result was a sea change in the style of red Bordeaux and other red wines, resulting in much deeper-coloured, more intensely flavoured wines that were at the same

Long-term cellaring is out. Jancis Robinson on vintages that mature fast

time softer and gentler to taste young. Thanks to anti-rot sprays that took the panic out of picking times, grapes were allowed to ripen more fully and sumptuously, so the wines became notably lower in acidity and the tannins in the grape skins, stalks and pips were also riper and less harsh-tasting. Once picked, the grapes began to be sorted much more rigorously to eliminate rotten or unripe grapes. There was much more careful control of temperatures throughout the two-week fermentation process, typically heating the vat a little at the beginning to get things started and then cooling it.

One key element in red winemaking is the extraction of colour, tannin and flavour from the skins, and all quality-conscious producers have been particularly careful of the way they encourage this by mixing up the skins and liquid in the fermentation vat as gently as possible, often using only the wine that will naturally drain off the skins and excluding the much tougher liquid that is squeezed out of the leftover skins in the press. Bordeaux being the hub of the red wine world, subject to scrutiny from winemakers elsewhere, these techniques have been adopted as far as is financially possible for most of the world's fine wines, and certainly by most ambitious producers of Bordeaux-like wines made from cabernet sauvignon and merlot grapes. I have noticed over the past few years that the red wine faults have changed. In the old days there were too many mean, thin, under-ripe wines but today the disappointments are most likely to be deep-coloured, but unbalanced because the colour, leached out of the grape skins by long maceration (or possibly even



Roll on change: red winemakers realised modern drinkers' centrally heated homes made storage difficult

physical concentration) is not matched by a similar intensity of appealing ripe fruit.

The new, softer generation of red wines, especially classed-growth Bordeaux, has not met with universal acclaim. Those with cellars full of more attenuated, old-fashioned counterparts had a vested interest in wondering aloud whether these new wines would last. It is still too early to answer that. But the question becomes less relevant with every year. Nobody I've ever met is seriously buying wine for their children, let alone their grandchildren. All that seems to be demanded of great wine today is that it has a life of between ten and 20 years, and sometimes not even that.

Red Bordeaux is the largest single component of my relatively small cellar, which is full to bursting with about 100 cases. As well as the cellar, I draw from a giant wine rack under the stairs deep enough to store two bottles in each of its 120 holes. This is my pending tray, where I put wines without the sort of future that requires cellaring, as well as serious bottles that I can always put my hands on.

There are certain wines that I seem to drink almost as soon as I buy them. This is true of the odd case of particularly successful pinot noir from Martinborough in New Zealand. Truly successful New World pinots tend to run out of their cardboard cases and on to the dinner table, perhaps because I know how much pleasure they can give — and how unlikely they are to make

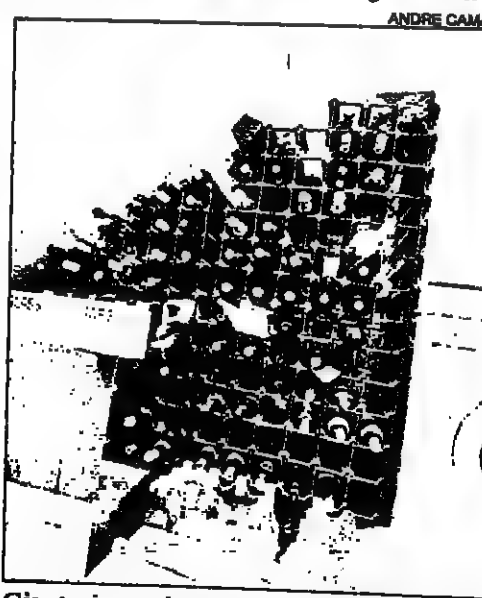
my fortune as investments.

The same is true of fine Alsace from the likes of Faller, Trimbach and Schoffit. Trimbach's Riesling Clos Ste Hune is the classic example of slow-maturing Alsace white, with so many admirers of its unimpeachably steely purity that its price has been rising out of the "simple pleasure" category.

Plumper rieslings, superior pinot gris and the most savoury gewürztraminers are some of the wines that disappear fastest from my racks. These full-bodied, scented whites seem so useful, either as aperitifs or with all sorts of food — even quite sturdy "red wine" sort of food, although too many of them nowadays taste sweeter than I'm expecting.

Top-quality German wine is one of my cellar's specialties, representing a minority but, I assure you, very refined taste. Those of us who know that a bottle of mature Mosel riesling is just as fine an aperitif as any champagne are not numerous, but we all know that these wines demand time.

One of the most sublime was a 17-year-old, a JJ Prüm Wehlener Sonnenuhr Auslese 1971, opened on New Year's Eve 1988, that was almost gold but still had the hint of green that can betray Mosel origins to the eye alone. It was still tingling with life and youth (Prüm's wines almost fizz in their very early years) but it definitely had a mature bouquet rather than a youthful aroma. The slow evolution



Giant wine rack under the author's stairs holds 240 bottles of wine that do not require cellaring. Clos Ste Hune, above, is the classic example of slow-maturing Alsace white

of my cellar is entirely due to my Mosel riesling enthusiasm coinciding with one for top-quality red Bordeaux, for these two sorts of wine mature at more or less the same, extremely stately, pace. I wish I had more bottles of Mosel 1983s left. I should padlock my 1989s, and am slightly embarrassed by my inability to keep the powerful wines made by the new stars of the Pfalz, such as Müller-Catoir and Rainer Lingfelder, unopened in my wine rack for more than a few weeks. These have much more substance than their spindly cousins from the Mosel in the north, and combine the weight of a white Burgundy with far more racy acidity and fond-

friendly structure.

I have yet to make any significant investments in cellaring modern Australian wine, a few magnums of particularly concentrated South Australian Shiraz apart, because of so many of them seem ready to drink the moment they're put on sale.

Perhaps the most striking development in recent wine production has been the speed with which Australia has imposed itself on the world's wine map. By the late 1980s it seemed as though my friends had given up European wine for good. Every dinner party was lubricated by bottles and bottles of deep golden Australian Chardonnay.

For years the French underestimated the challenge to their supremacy, interpreting the fact that they produce indubitably the best wines in the world as proof that all their wines were superior. This arrogance has been infuriating, particularly for those of us who worship the best of France's wine culture. In the long term, I think competition from outside, especially from cheeky upstarts, will prove to be the best thing for traditional wine regions and for consumers everywhere.

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Extracted from *Confessions of a Wine Lover*, by Jancis Robinson, to be published by Viking at £17.99 on October 13

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... but through his art Peter Brookes conveys succinct comments tinged with a strong whiff of irreverence

NATURE NOTES

Scottish U-Tern (*Electus forgodsake*)

By flexing its backbones this bird can adopt an uncomfortable reference position.



NATURE NOTES



Hedgerhog (*Europa dithera*)

If this sad creature persists in its middle-of-the-road position it can expect to be kohled in large numbers.

Drawing on experience

Kenneth Baker examines the new book by Times cartoonist Peter Brookes



England and France battle for the world in Gillray's cartoon

CARTOONING is alive and well in Britain. Its demise has looked imminent twice this century — first with the advent of photography, then of television. Nowadays people have immediate access to the images of politicians, members of the Royal Family and leading sporting and pop figures. Since they can all be caught in grotesque and embarrassing grins, what can the cartoonist add? The answer to that is wit and intelligence. A cartoon is not just another illustration, it conveys a succinct comment varying from scepticism to irreverence and contempt, and it aims to embarrass the victim with laughter. A good cartoonist will have a clear political perspective, such as David Low's consistent attacks in the Thirties on Baldwin and Chamberlain.

Today we have *The Guardian's* cartoonist, Steve Bell, who is old Labour right down to the nib of his pen, transferring his contempt for John Major to Tony Blair. The mind of the cartoonist is as important as his talent to draw. Peter Brookes of *The Times* has one of the sharpest minds in cartooning. He found his calling rather late, having left school to become a pilot in the RAF, before becoming an illustrator. Most cartoonists start very young. Gillray did his best work in his thirties and forties; a contemporary of his, Newton, died at the age of 21; Theodore Lane, who drew some wickedly funny cartoons of Caroline and George IV, fell to his death in his twenties through a window. George Cruikshank sat and watched his father, Isaac, etching cartoons, and started drawing them himself at the age of 12. He abandoned

political cartooning by the age of 30 in favour of illustrations, going on to draw *Oliver Twist*. Brookes is happily a late flowerer. As an illustrator, his sketches accompanied articles by Bernard Levin and Simon Jenkins. Then in 1992, he asked the editor of *The Times*, Peter Stothard, whether he could have a go at political cartooning. Fortunately for us all, the answer was "yes". Brookes's first five years were dominated by John Major's Government. On the day after the election in 1992, he drew his most flattering cartoon of the Prime Minister, standing confidently on his soap box outside No 10, while Neil Kinnock was in the soup. In that cartoon, Brookes drew the pupils of John Major's eyes be-

hind his glasses, but he soon omitted the pupils to show that Major had no vision of where the country was going. Unkind, but cartoonists do not deal in kindness. William Hague has learnt that lesson already as Brookes portrays him as the Mekon, a strange, barely human android.

CARTOONISTS thrive on big figures — Margaret Thatcher, Michael Heseltine, Ken Clarke — and, above all, on prime ministers. Brookes has therefore been coming to grips with Tony Blair. The physical side is not too difficult — the teeth, the wisp of hair and no doubt soon the wringing of the hands. But to get at the politics of the Prime Minister, Brookes has invented a comic strip character

Dan Blair, with the ironic subtitle, *Pilot for the Foreseeable Future* — the dynamic, confident chap who has all the answers... or does he? This is somewhat reminiscent of Vicky's portrayal of Macmillan as Supremacy in the late Fifties. It was meant to be ironic, but actually enhanced Macmillan's reputation.

Brookes's book, *Nature Notes*, shows that he is warming to the task of pinning down the new ministers in the Government, a target-rich area with characters such as Prescott, Mandelson, Short and Dobson who, as Health Minister, can look forward to a hard winter of cartooning.

The cartoonist has to search for the unlikely and the bizarre, and one way of doing this is to couple two unrelated contemporary events. For example, when Clare Short discovered her long-lost son, Brookes depicted Tony Blair as finding his long-lost mother — Margaret Thatcher.

A good cartoonist has to delineate the character in his caricature. As Annibale Carracci, the Italian father of caricature, or *caricatura*, said in the late 16th century, cartoonists must "grasp the perfect deformity and thus reveal the very essence of a personality". But it has to be done with an economy of line, and Brookes successfully reduces his victims' characteristics to the bare minimum.

In *Nature Notes*, John Major's opposition to Gillian Shephard's devotion to corporal punishment has him depicted as an angular stick-insect resting on a cane. Heseltine, who had said that there was nothing wrong in keeping companies waiting for their money, is punningly drawn as a cheetah (late-payer Hezza).

A brutal and very Jamaican death



Tunku Varadarajan mourns the shocking loss of a dear friend

On July 9, 1997, two evil men murdered Mark Twyman — my friend, my buddy, my mate — outside his cottage in Jamaica's Blue Mountains, where he grew the world's best coffee on his father's sprawling farm. We know there were two killers because Mark's body bore the wounds of two different guns. The men shot him six times: five bullets in the back as he tried to escape, and once in the heart, the gun so close to his body that there were powder burns on his chest. The last shot was fired as he lay, barely alive, on a steep hillside. In Mark's right hand, caught in a death-grip, was a wristwatch, wrenched from one of his assailants, as his own life was being wrenched from him. It was a coarse death, a brutal death, a very Jamaican death. The local papers, turned callous by 1,000 murders a year, mentioned his end in no more than 50 dry words. There was no mention of his wife, Mary-Anne, then eight months pregnant with their first child. Now, she is the mother of Nicholas Mark, six weeks old, who will never see his father.

I fly to Jamaica next weekend for Mark's memorial service. His ashes will be interred on a mist-wrapped slope at Green Hills by his family, accompanied by a small knot of friends from Kingston and New York, London and Oxford. We will shed quiet tears for Mark, and, I hope, toast him in coffee, the drink for which he gave his life. I knew Mark from Oxford, where we were undergraduates together; he at Pembroke, I at Trinity, he a chemist and I a lawyer. We first met in 1981, at a freshmen's party at the Oxford Union. We last met in December, 1994, considerably wiser, when he was on holiday in London — to buy books



Mark Twyman at Oxford in a 1984 photograph taken after an exam. He went on to achieve a BA in chemistry

and records, and to get a bit of culture", as he then put it. He bought a compact disc — I think it was a symphony for the organ by Charles-Marie Widor — and we listened to it in my new flat in Islington. We had just played squash, and were sweating profusely. I remember the Jamaican lilt in his voice, and the swell of the organ music.

Mark is now dead. He was killed, we believe, by his own integrity. After long years in England — a BA in chemistry at Pembroke, a doctorate, a research fellowship at Oxford, and a spell as a research scientist with Exxon in Abingdon — he returned to Jamaica in 1993, determined to

work for the country in which he was born. He would have been 35 this December.

"Well people," he wrote to his friends at the time. "After years of talking about it, yours truly is actually taking the big step. Yep, I'm going to give Jamaica my best shot. Idealistic tomfoolery? Simply stupid and ill-informed? Or inspired? I don't know. But, 'in a go back a yard fi true, yu know'."

Mark took charge of his father's farm, the Old Tavern Estate, and coffee output trebled within three years. For the first time, the farm was being run as a proper

commercial enterprise. He also pitched in with the rest, and people still talk of "this little white man", with a doctorate from Oxford, humping bags and cutting weeds with the farmworkers. He also taught at village schools and picked up his workers at the crack of dawn. To them he was always "Mark", never "Mr Twyman, Sir".

Yet Mark was stubborn. Mark had integrity. He got these features from his father, Alex, who migrated to Jamaica in 1958 from Forest Gate, in east London. Alex, who came to work as a quantity surveyor, soon married Dorouy, who belonged to an old white Jamaican family. Together, a

decade later, they bought a plot in the Blue Mountains and started the farm.

A man of iron honesty, Mark rubbed the "coffee establishment" up the wrong way. He was swiftly embittered by the openness with which coffee producers were robbed, the audacity with which stocks were plundered. It is an open secret in Jamaica that the profits from these thefts line not just the pockets of the palifers, but also of those officials who control Jamaica's coffee mill.

Mark witnessed these thefts, which cost his farm not petty cash but thousands of dollars. He spoke out against them repeatedly. He had warned

people to stop stealing, and taken down the numbers of licence plates.

In doing so he made enemies in high places. This, surely, was why he was murdered. And this, surely, is why the police have now called off the investigation into his murder, a mere ten weeks after his death.

There is more: for 25 years Mark's father battled the Jamaican Coffee Board's monopoly, fighting for a licence that would allow him to export his coffee independently, and free him from the law that forced him to sell all his beans to the board.

Mark had thrown his weight behind his father's struggle for a licence, bringing an Oxonian polish to what had previously been a rough-and-tumble campaign by his gruff and artless father.

With Mark's skills, the Twymans won. On July 9, the very day of his murder, the export licence finally came through. The world, for Mark, looked brilliant that morning: a new licence for the family after a quarter-century of attrition, a devoted wife who was eight months pregnant, his Jamaican dream in full flower. At 5.30pm that day, drained after his labours, he returned home, to the beautiful, sylvan cottage where he lived.

But they were waiting for him there. Two men, one with an automatic rifle, the other with a handgun. Mark was attacked as he alighted from his Land Rover, parked on the gravel driveway. The car's door was still ajar the next morning when a search party found him, soaked in the dew of the Blue Mountains. He was dead, his fine life destroyed by a volley of callous bullets, his body slumped against a coffee bush.

Mark Twyman — my friend, my buddy, my mate — died a coarse death, a brutal death, a very Jamaican death.



Widowed Mary-Anne holds baby Nicholas Mark, who will never know his father

IN FRANCE,
A BOTTLE OF
CHAMPAGNE
Canard-Duchêne
IS OPENED
EVERY 10 SECONDS.

CANARD-DUCHÊNE. CHAMPAGNE SANS FORMALITÉ.

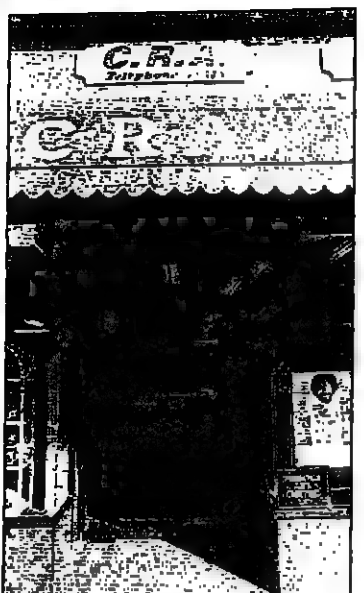
Lady Cobbold tells Mike Cable how CRA helped her to refashion Knebworth House

Loving revival of a rock pile

Rock 'n' roll helped to put stately home Knebworth House back on the map with the likes of Elton John, the Rolling Stones and Oasis headlining a series of massive open-air festivals staged in the 250-acre park.

Behind the scenes, however, the struggle to save the Hertfordshire estate, in the same family for more than 500 years, has not always been quite so glamorous for Lord and Lady Cobbold.

Running a stately home is a notoriously difficult business and despite the success of the concerts and other attractions that they have



The entrance to CRA, favoured haunt of artists in St Albans

introduced since taking over Knebworth from Lord Cobbold's parents in 1970, there have been times when they have come close to going under.

It was partly to help cut costs that the shy and unassuming Chrissy Lytton Cobbold — as she prefers to be known — taught herself upholstery, curtain-making and picture-framing, personally refurbishing much of the interior of the house.

Over the years she has tackled everything from the repair of delicate antique silk curtains to the complete restoration of a magnificent 18th-century four-poster bed in the bedroom once used by author Edward Bulwer-Lytton's mother. In her workshop she even set about rewiring all the table and standard lamps.

It was after she decided to re-cane a set of 16 antique Regency dining chairs that she first discovered CRA, a large, two-storey shop in nearby St Albans that specialises in art and craft materials in picture framing.

"After a lot of ringtoning around, it was the only place I could find that sold the sort of cane fabric that I needed," she recalls. "Then, when I went in, I found that it was full of all kinds of other interesting things."



Lady Cobbold at the shop with a restored Regency dining chair. "It was the only place that sold the sort of cane fabric that I needed"

When it first opened as a small corner shop in the city 20 years ago, what was then known as the Centre for Restoration and Arts concentrated mainly on upholstery and furniture restoration.

But by time it moved to its present premises six years ago, it had started to concentrate more on the art side. "In St Albans it seems that everyone is an artist," explains Denise Davis, one of the four partners who run the family business. "There are an awful lot of art societies in the area."

An endlessly energetic mother of four grown-up children, Lady Cobbold herself likes to paint — when she can find the time.

"I'm lousy at it, but when I'm on holiday I like to have a go and I come here for all my materials," she says. "I do a lot of picture-framing at the house and they have a huge framing department here, which is useful."

"I also make a lot of cushions and this is where I get embroidery wool

that I use." Her eye alights on some plain white silk ties that can be hand-painted with one's own design. "I love that idea. I think I might do one as a present for my husband," she says.

Browsing further among the packed shelves, she points out some miniature wallpapers of the kind she used to renovate an antique doll's house, dating from 1780, for the museum at Knebworth.

"I also made a doll's house for my daughter Rosina when she was little," she recalls, adding: "I just itch to make things. And working with my hands is something which has always come naturally to me."

Upholstery and the caring of chairs are skills she taught herself from books. "I never go to classes," she says. "My mind goes completely blank when someone actually tries to tell me how to do something. I suppose that's why I never did very well at school."

The daughter of Sir Dennis

Stucley, Chrissy was brought up at Hardland Abbey, an even bigger stately pile than Knebworth, so she was no stranger to the problems involved in keeping such places going.

In her book *Board Meetings in the Bath*, she tells how she, as company secretary, and her husband, as chairman, planned the events, the attractions and the developments that have enabled them to hang on to the house that was built by Lord Cobbold's ancestor Robert Lytton in 1492.

Another book, *Knebworth Rock Festivals*, recalls her personal memories of nearly 20 major rock events that have been staged there since 1974, regularly attracting as many as 120,000 people.

Although she is a keen rock fan, Chrissy admits that she was a little apprehensive when the idea was first put to her. "But the promoter told us:

"Everybody has their price, name yours."

"We mentioned a figure which seemed like a fortune to us, never thinking it would be accepted, and he said yes immediately. So that was it. And we never regretted it. It has been good commercially and we have never had any real trouble. On the whole, everybody has always been very well behaved."

Her latest project involves editing and reprinting the works of her husband's great-great grandfather, Edward Bulwer-Lytton, whose close friend Charles Dickens once stayed at Knebworth, where he wrote part of *David Copperfield*.

"We've put Knebworth back on the map. Now I'd like to do the same for Edward Bulwer-Lytton's writings," she says.

• CRA, 13-15 Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 3UJ (01727 851553). Open Mon-Fri 8.30am-5.30pm, Sat 9am-5pm.

BARGAIN BASEMENT

There are bargains to be had at markets, boot sales, junk shops and stalls all over the country. Let loose on them with £100, what would you buy?

Time was that the idea of buying anything at a festival that wasn't a pint of yellow lager in a waxed cup or a luke-warm pie was laughable bordering on the insane. Festivals were for students, the terminally unemployed, and people who'd never been the same since they'd done that dodgy acid in 1978. They didn't want to buy things. They wanted to clap at things, drink things, and throw things up later.

But now that festivals have become lucrative "parts of the season", consumer opportunities are endless. The Womad World Music Festival had large African wardrobes and Middle Eastern brass coffee tables for sale, while Glasstonbury offered yurts (samosa-like twig tents) for a reasonable £50.

Reading festival, alas, isn't so hot. The grooviest things on offer are Los

Wibbles — small wooden animals the size of a 50p coin, with heads on springs. The ubiquitous jester's hats are becoming ever more dangerous — often up to three storeys high, and festooned with a distressing number of jangling bells. At night, the sounds of drunken revellers falling into drainage ditches is punctuated by the oddly affecting sound of Santa's sleigh.

And, for those who like their clothes colourful, the jackets made of candlewick bedspreads and old curtains made the festival-site look like it had been dressed by Vivienne Westwood. Otherwise, it's all dope-smoking accoutrements — hookahs in the shape of two lovers; a skull; a Coke bottle with "Toke" cunningly written on it.

I'm old school in my festival purchases: I spent most of my money on lager. You know where you are with lager.

• Los Wibbles: £2.50 each; demonic mirror that looked like Les Dennis: £12; candlewick jacket in red and yellow: £15; two skirts in gold curtain material: £14; knitted floor-length dress: £15; star-shaped lampshade: £15; rainbow-patterned aniseed flavour cigarette paper: 50p; hookah in the shape of a penis: £20. Total: £94.00.

CAITLIN MORAN



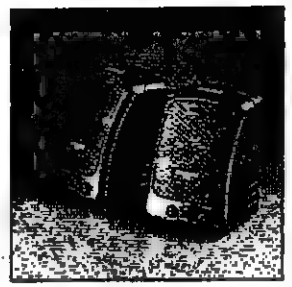
Jester's hats: ubiquitous fare at music festivals

GADGETS

It is difficult to imagine life without hi-fi speakers, but positioning them correctly is always fraught with pitfalls. Often speakers' umbilical cords are too short to place them far enough apart for true high-fidelity sound, unless you add extensions. On the floor they are wasted; on the wall, cables dangle untidily.

Life would be easier if you could place speakers wherever they sounded best. The answer is cordless speakers, and although the first are hardly top-of-the-range, future versions surely will be. They work with a transmitter, which plugs into any sound source, like the headphone socket of a Walkman, with a mini-jack plug. There is also a standard plug adaptor so you can use it with either the hi-fi or the television.

The stereo speakers, each powered with four AA batteries, can be placed anywhere within a 50ft radius. The freedom is sensational, allowing you to take listening pleasures to unlikely places like the loo, bedroom, attic or garden shed. It is especially good for allowing you to play music you couldn't ordinarily cart around effortlessly, like



Cordless speakers: music just where you want it

vinyl records. The sound can be on the thin side, reception is not always perfect and, since the feed is taken from a headphone socket, this cuts out primary speakers, a setback if you want piped Mantovani in every room. However, several speakers can be fed by one transmitter.

The biggest drawback is that the speakers can only be purchased as an add-on: the essential transmitter unit is sold with miserable cordless stereo headphones that hiss more than Sid.

TIM WAPSHOTT

• Cordless headphones and transmitter plus two speakers package, £69.95 plus p&p, from Innovations (0990 507060).

BELOW: Brum Brum ceramic salt and pepper cans, £35, from Worldwide Co. (0171-372 7523). This entertaining set demands a long table, as the wheels really work, allowing guests to whizz the duo from one end to another



Not everything in black and white's a grind

IF YOU are tired of the same old grind, put some zing back in on your table with the season's hottest twisters and shakers. Maddalena Bonino at Bertorelli, one of London's leading Italian restaurants, says it is not just the contents that matter: it is the containers, too. Black pepper is best for grinders, she says, as the mixtures of white and brown tend to produce a result that is too powdery. To Bonino, "nothing beats a good grinder, so that guests can adjust

the seasoning of the food to their taste". She also suggests sea-salt crystals, as they grind better than flakes. Crystals are always available in specialist shops but most large supermarkets should stock them at half the price. When it comes to size, this is one instance, Bonino says, when it really doesn't matter: what counts is the density of the seasoning and the pleasure of the twist. Whatever your taste, this season there are numerous pairs to suit: whether they are easy to clean and fill, fun in use or just gorgeous to look at.

CAROLINE GRIFFITHS

RIGHT: Italian designed "Push-Up" ceramic salt and pepper shakers with stand, £35, from Worldwide Co (0171-372 7523). American-style, they fill from the top, clean in warm soapy water and make sure they are dry before filling



ABOVE: Another design classic duo from the Alessi design team: pepper mill with Peugeot mechanism and adjustable grind, £33, and salt shaker, £32, from Estilo (see above). Clean with a damp cloth or use a polish and rub gently

RIGHT: Pollicino ceramic salt and pepper shakers, £16.25, from Worldwide, (as above). Available in blue and ochre, with a handle for good grip. Not easy to fill; try up-ending the shaker into a tea towel to cover the holes, preventing any spillage

RIGHT: Sarah Jordan's silver "Embrace" pots, £35 (mail order, 0181-444 2331). Beautifully crafted but time-consuming to fill

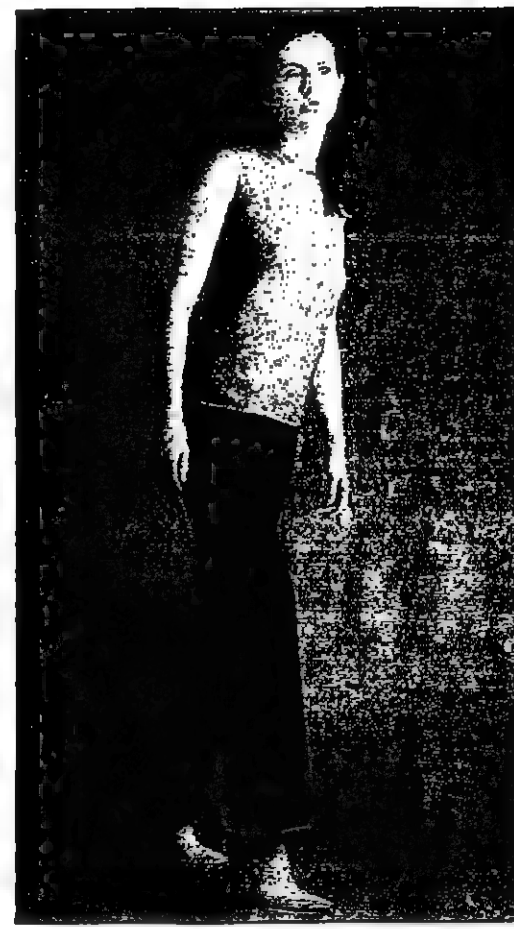
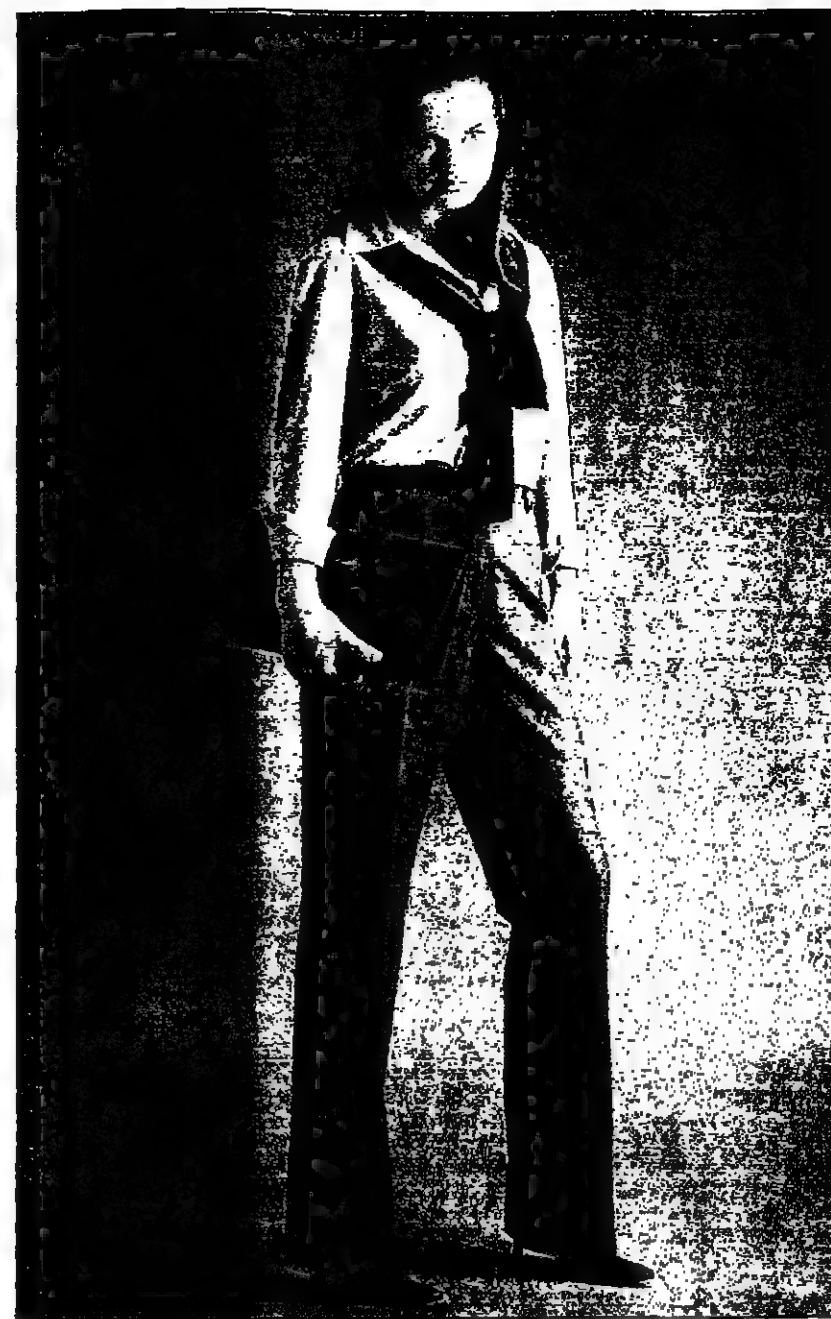


ABOVE: Battery-operated pepper grinder, £9.99, from John Lewis (0171-828 1000). This magical creation not only grinds your pepper at the push of a button, but it also lights up. Ideal for the technophile with poor vision.

ABOVE: "Dune" salt and pepper shakers in pewter, £50, designed by Michael Ryan (mail order, 01427 677556). Full marks for elegance but difficult to grip and easily smudged



The latest wide-legged styles are the answer to every woman's trouser dilemma, **Heath Brown** writes



MAIN PICTURE: Memo cowneck sweater, £55, Jigsaw, branches nationwide (0171-491 4484). Gray flannel trousers, £59, Kookai, branches nationwide (0171-937 4411). Cowboy boots, £295, Gina for Ghost, 189 Sloane Street, London SW1 (0171-235 2932).

ABOVE: Blue stretch shirt, £19.99, River Island, branches nationwide (0181-998 8822). Cashmere sweater, £220, Jil Sander; gray check trousers, £310, Sonia Rykiel, both Browns, 25-26 South Molton Street, London W1, and 6 Sloane Street, SW1 (0171-491 7833). Clutch bag, £135, Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, London W1, and branches nationwide (0171-829 6603). Cowboy boots, Gina for Ghost, as before.

LEFT: Gray knit T-shirt, £240, Jil Sander, Browns, as before. Side-split trousers, £190, Valencia (0171-833 1410). Boots, Gina for Ghost, as before.

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Sally Kvalheim. Styling by Amanda Uppal.

Wear them far and wide

To many women, the idea of wearing trousers is out of the question: worries about the size of their thighs or their bottom take over. They should stop fretting: the new wide-leg trouser styles are perfect for hiding every imperfection: loose flowing, but tailored for a flattering fit, they can look fabulously elegant and will add another dimension to every wardrobe, giving women ever more combinations to choose from.

For the look, think back to the simple sophistication of Katharine Hepburn in her heyday, when softly tailored wool pants were worn with crisp white blouses or plush cashmere sweaters. It is a

refined lounge style that became popular in the late Forties, when women — who had only worn trousers in factories and offices while the men were off to war — started wearing pants to every occasion in peacetime, breaking all previous conventions about society parties. Although trousers were considered to be very masculine at the time, this new style moulded them to make them womanly, with soft folds and feminine flairs to flatter curves and emphasise waspy waists.

Today, as then, the style is particularly flattering if you get the proportions right: a wider trouser leg takes the emphasis away from the hips and gives limbs a longer

shape. The long, elegant look is made to look even leaner and slimmer when worn with slim heels: the effect of a slender ankle offers the illusion of a long, thin leg beneath the flowing folds. Boots with heels are ideal to achieve this look or sharp, spindly sandals from stores such as Bertie, which has the perfect stiletto boots in black suede or leather for £75 (0171-935 2002), or Gina, which has wonderfully spiky slingbacks.

Wear tight-fitting knits and small, shaped jackets, which make the legs look longer and the waistline narrower, to extend this look throughout the body. A

bustier, a nipped-in jacket, a tiny cardigan or a tight T-shirt will accentuate the flowing lower half even more, emphasising the floppy mass of fabric beneath the waist, but keeping the look slim and elegant. This season's shoulder-padded jackets are also ideal accompaniments, creating a severe version of the Joan Crawford hourglass silhouette that is angular and handsome.

If you are a woman who wears the pants, now is the time to step out in style. Forget slimline cigarette pants, boot-cut styles, naff Seventies flares and stretch jeans. When it comes to striding out in trousers, the wider the leg-width and the more flowing the fabric, the better.



Double-breasted suit: trousers, £310, jacket, £615, Sonia Rykiel; black sweater, Browns, as before. Tan classic brogues, £175, Jones, 112 Jermyn Street, London SW1 (freephone 0800 163519).

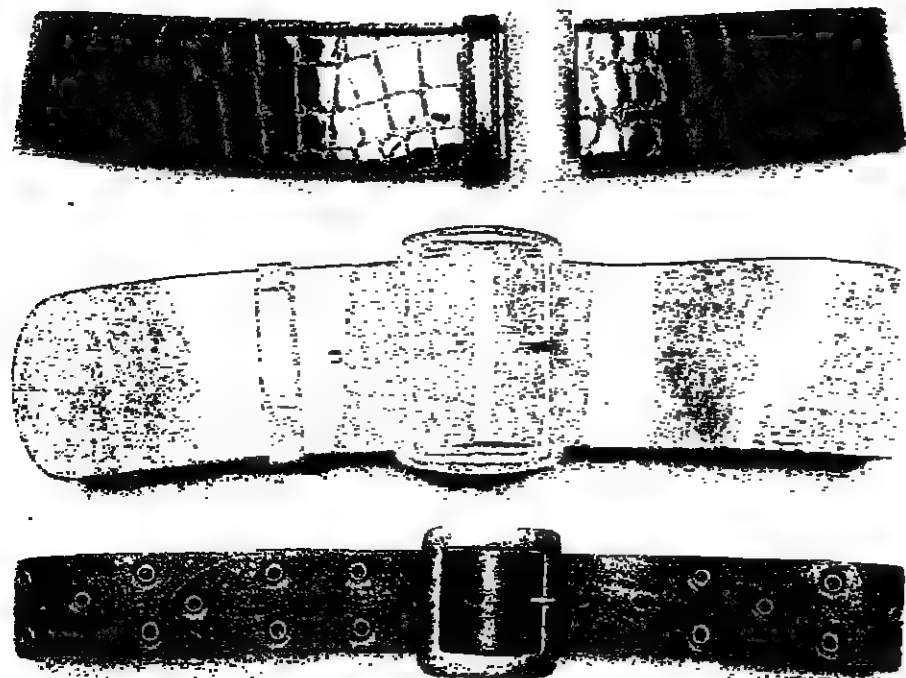
THREE OF A KIND

It is not just trousers that are going wider. A broad belt will diminish the circumference of your waist and help to keep you upright and elegant. HB

TOP: Black patent mock-croc wide hipster belt, £78, Sally Glasing (0171-267 9303).

MIDDLE: Red patent wide belt, £70, Otto Glanz, from most major department stores nationwide (0181-365 1711).

BOTTOM: Black soft leather hole-punched wide belt, £70, Mulberry, 41-42 New Bond Street, London W1 (0171-491 3900).



SUMMER SALE

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or 2 nights B&B midweek
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AMSTERDAM
£160 Thomas Cook
1 night B&B
★ ★ ★ Piet Hein
Additional nights £38
Flights from London & Manchester

MADRID
209 Time Out
1 night B&B
★ ★ Hotel Clipper
Additional nights £20

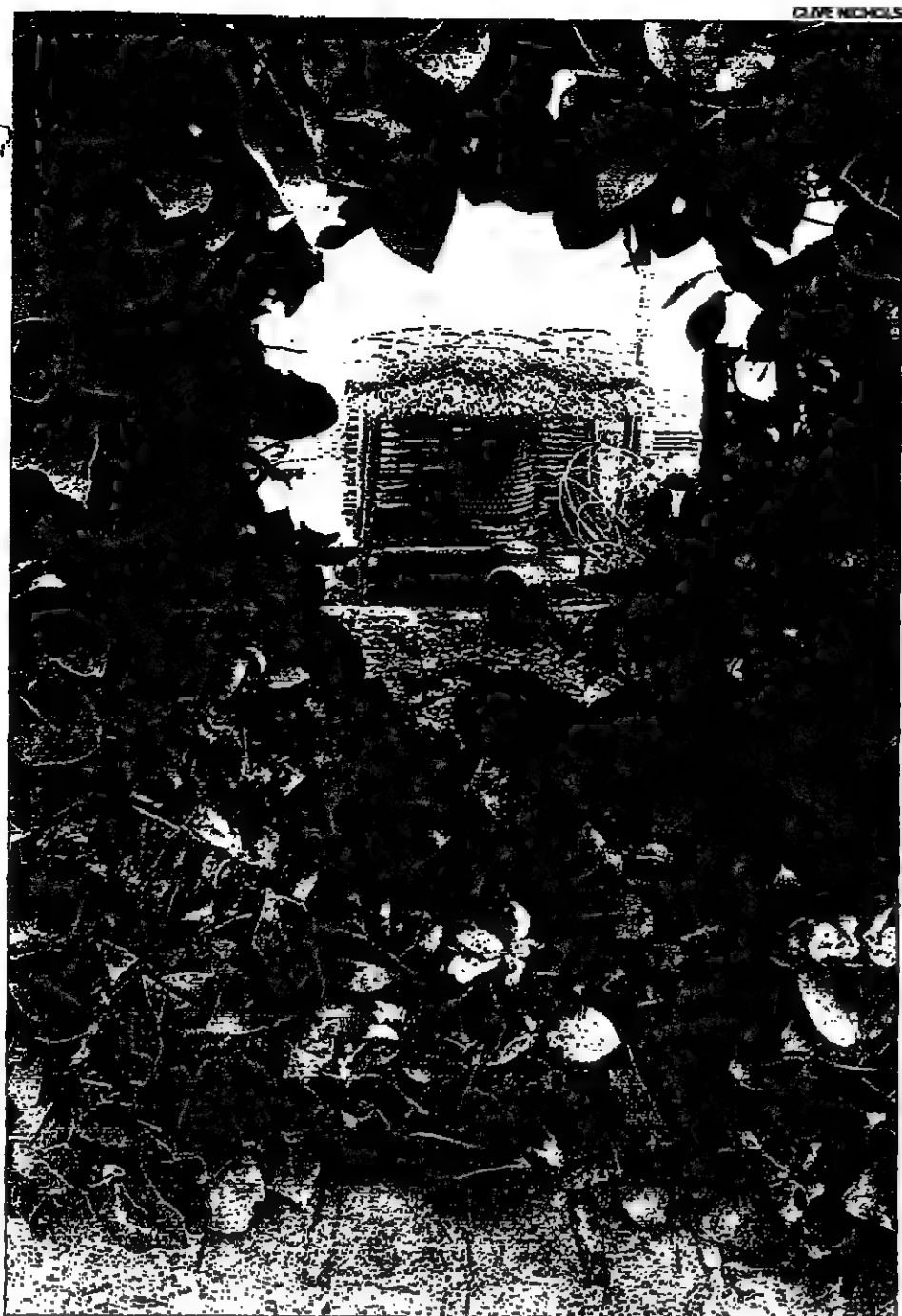
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★ ★ Santamaría
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A peep hole cut in the middle of a bay hedge offers a different view in a small garden

Woodman spare that tree

Instead of clearing out your new garden you could join up the dots, says Stephen Anderton

When you move into a new garden it is all too easy to want to remove randomly placed trees and shrubs, to make some open space and give the garden a breather. And it is all too easy to regret it later. Sometimes they can be extremely useful.

One of the recognised ways of making a small garden feel larger is to break it up into even smaller units, to make a sequence of corners and arbours full of surprises and with different characters.

Sometimes those lonely shrubs or unnecessary trees cast out on a sea of lawn can be linked together to make the bones of new internal divisions in the garden. Think about it before you chop.

Try making a sketch of the garden and seeing how the shrubs or trees might be linked together. Think of it as a giant join-up-the-dots game, where you must make as many alternative shapes as possible. Usually something appealing will emerge.

You might, for instance, want to make a secret corridor down one side of the garden for growing vegetables. One small tree out in the lawn might mark the corner of this, its canopy hiding the length of the corridor from the house. You could separate the corridor from the rest of the garden with a long line of runner beans, back to back with a row of tall herbaceous plants. Rudbeckia 'Herbstsonne'

makes a full-leaved column to 6ft-7ft, with lemon-yellow flowers in late summer. It grows like a rocket, both upwards and at the root, so if you bought, say, four plants you could divide them into 20 the next autumn and have a complete screen of plants by the following year.

You could join up the dots with trellis fixed to posts instead, covering it with honeysuckle, clematis and sweet peas. For an evergreen screen you could run the trellis through with a large-leaved ivy, like *Hedera colchica* or its cheerful yellow-variegated variant 'Sulphur Heart'. It always warms the heart, even on a cold winter's day.

If there is a lonely young tree out on the lawn, why not give it a partner and make an entrance of it, pillars leading to a grass path flanked by a pair of new parallel borders? Don't worry that the trees are not the official distance apart. They will not be large open-crowned specimens in a small garden anyway, and it is better to think of trees as temporary architecture.

Use them for instant height and prune them hard to keep them to scale. They need not be there for ever. This is the beauty of a garden broken into many little units — the odd tree can come and go and never be noticed when it goes because you are not making an overall picture but a series of intimate spaces.

You may have a deep shrubbery which you want to scrap



Have fun with a vegetable bed of runner beans, cabbage, fennel, kale and courgettes

in favour of space for more detailed planting. A hellebore garden, or somewhere to grow lots of special primroses and dogtooth violets.

It could be a lot of work to clear the shrubbery and there may be no need. Consider saving the biggest or the most interesting of the shrubs, and making a winding path of bark chips among them. If you really needed to maximise the growing space, then stepping stones would give you even more soil to plant.

Use the join-the-dots technique again and consider which shrubs you might save to make an interesting meander from A to B and whether the path would fork to give you a side exit as well as one at the far end. Do you want a more open centre to the shrubbery, a little glade and to thicken the planting around the outside, so that the whole area is enclosed?

The marvellous thing about small enclosures such as this

is that anything above eye-height will give you privacy from what lies on the other side. It is an idea you can play with, by cutting a peep hole in a hedge, or making a mini-vista to be seen through the fork of a tree. Offer a glimpse through the side of a rose-smothered arbour with a table and seats, from a winding path which runs behind it; or a Shakespearean "chink" in a wall like a garden confession.

You may like the idea of dividing the garden into intimate spaces, but may think the existing trees are too many and too big. Some species you can reduce ruthlessly just by pruning, and you need not lose that height altogether. More to the point, you can then keep the old trunks, which always add dignity and a sense of passing time to a garden.

Willows, limes, ash, planes and even oaks can be pollarded, cutting the crown back in winter to make a new head on the existing trunk. Two to avoid are cherries and laburnums, which hate this treatment. Old hollies can be reduced by

March pruning to narrow columns, or even to large formal lollipops, should that serve your purpose. Dreary, moth-eaten old yews can be reduced to a totem pole, from which will spring new branches. These can be grown on to make a manageable tree, or turned into topiary if you prefer. Holly and yew can be cut off at ground level and will quickly make manageable bushes again. Saving them alive and making use of existing trees can be the fastest and easiest way to a full and compartmented garden.

Earth up celery and leeks to blanch them, and winter brassicas for stability. Keep celery well watered, as the tenderest celery is always the fastest grown.

Early pears will be ready to pick now. Watch all varieties and pick as and when ready.

Keep ponds free of the worst leaf fall from trees. See that alpine and cushion plants are not smothered by fallen leaves, and watch for slugs taking advantage of their cover to eat into stems and crowns.



Aerate compacted lawns by machine, or with a fork in smaller areas. Complete any necessary turf repairs while the ground is still warm and the grass is growing. Vertical dips in lawn edges can produce an edge which looks as though it is waving in and out. To

give a straighter effect, make parallel spade cuts at right angles to the edge and peel back the turf with a spade in strips. Insert fresh soil below and roll back the turf to lie at a constant level. The edge can then be recut. Humps in the grass can be taken out in a similar way by removing soil below the turf.

Fallen leaves should not be allowed to lie for long on the lawn, especially if it is newly-seeded grass, or fungal infections can cause patches to die out. In dry weather,

however, a light scattering of leaves does no harm at all.

Finish dividing herbaceous plants now and complete any of the remainder in the spring. An exception to this rule are the scionifers (monkshoods) which sometimes come into leaf before Christmas and will then need dividing early, even though they flower late. *Aconitum carmichaelii* can be in full flower, like a royal blue delphinium, in October. Divide it as soon as flowering is over.

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Club Vista Sierra	Gran Canaria	July/Aug	4	High	4	1395		
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PRIME SHARE

Exposed beams, lots of space and plenty of history make medieval hall houses desirable places to live. Chris Webb reports

The fate of a grand manor house in Harrow rests on the outcome of a £2 million Heritage Lottery Fund bid, due to be announced this month.

Headstone Manor, now owned by the London Borough of Harrow, was first recorded in 1300, and in 1344 it was granted to John Stratford, Archbishop of Canterbury, who built a grand medieval hall house. Precisely how grand has only just been discovered by English Heritage, which recently carried out some digs which showed that the hall had four bays rather than the two bays previously known.

The house has been added to and subtracted from over the centuries, and a grant will enable the local authority, Harrow Heritage Trust, and Harrow Arts Council, the joint applicants, to organise an authentic restoration.

They hope the work will be finished for the millennium, when it will become a heritage centre, set in restored topiary and herb garden surrounded by a water-filled moat.

Thousands of hall houses more than 500 years old survive throughout the country, not as museums but as homes. Most are half-timbered, and they are rivalled by the Georgian rectory in popularity with house buyers, according to Richard Page, of John D. Wood. The company has just sold Crown House at Cowden, Kent, a late medieval hall house with Jacobean and Queen Anne additions. The £400,000 house has exposed timbers, including a decorated 15th-century crown post in the roof.

Mr Page says: "These houses are always in demand. They are often Grade II-listed, are in good locations, and their history makes them of immediate interest. They often divide into four bedrooms and three bathrooms to make comfortable homes."

Another example being marketed by the company is Pound Farm at Blackham, Kent, a £395,000 four-bedroom hall house with a drawing room, dining room and study downstairs. Like Headstone, the house, which has 20 acres of land, was altered over the years so that it now has a gabled porch and is tie hung, with a brick elevation.

Mr Page says: "Hall houses are a particular feature of Kent, Sussex and Surrey and usually jettied out at first-floor level. I was told the weight of the roof bears down on the joists that support the jetty, and that heavy oak furniture counterbalanced this weight. You now see modern versions which can cost more than the real thing."

From Anglo-Saxon times to the

Living in the grand manor



Ian Hurley outside the hall house in Cowden, Kent, which he converted from a pub into a family home. Right, the medieval crown post that supports the roof



ACTOR Ian Hurley has just sold his wonderful medieval hall house in Cowden, Kent — and has bought another one across the road.

John D. Wood has just sold the £400,000 house, which Hurley converted from a pub into a home for his wife, Teresa, a solicitor, and three young children.

Hurley bought the house four years ago and says the best thing about the eight-bedroomed house, which is thought to date from 1480, with Queen Anne and Jacobean additions, is its historic atmosphere, and

16th century, many houses had an open hall of one storey, built with either carved timbers or a box frame made from green oak or elm, the walls being filled in with wattle and daub.

At first, the timbers were just set into the earth, which encouraged rot, but from the 1300s they were stood on stone pads to increase their lifespan. A fire would be lit on a hearth of stone slabs laid in the

middle of the hall, and provided the only heating in the building, the smoke being left simply to seep through the roof. The hall was used for formal business, entertaining and dining — a high table would be placed here. At one end was an enclosed area to which the householder would withdraw for privacy. This area, the solar end, often had an upper floor. At the other end (the lower end) were the services — a

HOOKED ON HISTORY

now he is hooked on it.

"Restoration has become an interest," he says. "It's very satisfying. We found a crown post in the roof, which is octagonal and decorated. This may have been a manor house for a while — it had a Jacobean hallway with moulded beams. It would have been quite prestigious."

"We did a major restoration here. We stripped back the walls, cleaned the rafters and replastered using sand and lime plastering, and we exposed a Jacobean

ceiling. Almost as soon as we moved in here, we had a conservation of

flier here who searched our skip! I love the winters in these houses when you can light the big fire in the inglenook and burn logs with different smells — apple, oak and ash."

"The wattle and daub that fills in between the oak frame is not good insulation, but central heating can make the house cosy, and anyway we feel the cold is quite healthy."

The five-bedroomed house he has bought is smaller, with no extensions, and will also

need complete refurbishment. "It's an aesthetic thing that I enjoy," says Hurley.

"It's lovely to uncover an inglenook fireplace and perhaps an iron fireback behind an ugly Fifties fireplace."

"You can sit there and work out why a door is there, and that the ceilings are low because the first floor was added to the existing open hall."

"I believe the people who built these houses were very colourful, and I like to imagine how they used to live communally in the open hall."

They could be small — just 15ft by 12ft, while grander, later houses had a whole wing at the solar end set at right angles to the hall.

Matthew Slocombe, of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings, says: "Headstone Manor has a very rare example of a full-height hall. But we would not want to strip out the floors in hall houses because they are a valid part of the buildings' history and

development. Anything pre-1550 that is not a town house stands a good chance of being a hall house."

There is no doubt that Throckmorton Court, near Pershore, Worcestershire, is the real thing: it was described by Pevsner in his *Buildings of England* as "A splendid, timber-framed late medieval hall and solar of circa 1500." Today the house still has its decorative trefoil timbering, al-

though it has been modernised and now offers four bedrooms with their own bathrooms, a staff flat and a granny annexe. There are 246 acres, two moats and an indoor swimming pool. There are also stables, two cottages and a timber barn. Knight Frank is offering the property at a guide price of £1.25 million.

Cross Farm, Kidmore End, near Reading, is a Grade II-listed, double-ended hall house dating from the later 15th century. It has a great hall with a queen post roof, and even a priest hole, but has been adapted to provide seven bedrooms and four bathrooms. It has just sold with Savills at £950,000.

The house has wooden mullion windows, a heated pool, a billiard room, music room and a wine store, as well as five reception rooms, six bedrooms, outbuildings and three acres of gardens.

Humberts sold the Grade II-listed Downstreet Farmhouse, at Piltown, Sussex, the first day it went on the market. A potted history of the house has been written by a local historian.

The house, which had a guide price of £550,000, dates from 1295, when it was on the medieval route from Lewes to London. It was timber-framed then but was later faced with brick.

Now the company is marketing a splendid timber-framed hall house just a stone's throw away on the same road. Little Shortbridge dates from around 1500, but has been restored by the present owners to provide a luxurious four-five-bedroom home in 14 acres that include tennis courts, a billiard room, garaging and a vegetable garden and has a guide price of £650,000.

Stephen Rickards, of Sevenoaks, Kent, a building surveyor who specialises in conservation, says most of the hall houses he has surveyed date from the 14th century.

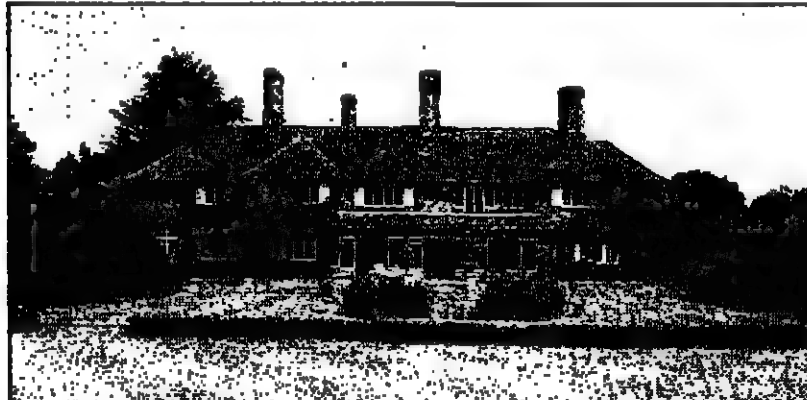
"Hall houses pre-date putting floors right across the building partly because smoke had to go somewhere, and one of the things I look for in a survey is smoke blackening of the roof timbers."

"Maintaining these houses is very important. It's best to do a little often, replacing loose roof tiles, clearing gutters, and keeping ivy out. Central heating, if used for anything more than background heating, can damage the timbers, but there are usually plenty of fireplaces with which to heat rooms."

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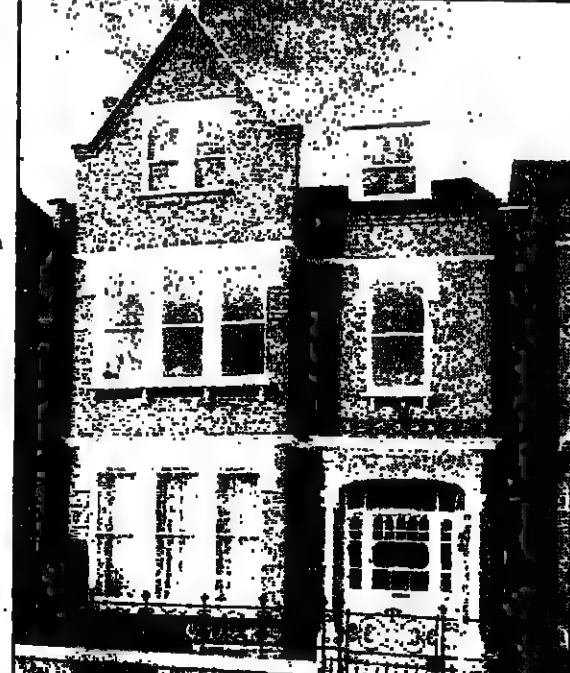
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The ultimate status symbol



Rich men at play: Robert Maxwell with Forbes

Looking for a place in the sun? For \$10 million, Malcolm Forbes's island could be all yours, writes Alex O'Connell

You don't have to wear a Trusky donkey jacket or sleep with *Dus Kapital* under your pillow to feel uncomfortable when a man buys an island for his own private fancy, complete with indigenous population. Sadly, the late Malcolm Forbes, staunch Republican, chairman and editor-in-chief of *Forbes*, the respected US business magazine, didn't suffer from such po-faced liberalism.

When Forbes bought the 3,000-acre Fijian island of Laucala in 1972, he was looking for a unique party venue, rather than just another family retreat. Loved and loathed for his Gaisbyesque generosity, unusual hobbies (he nearly killed himself ballooning over the Atlantic) and crude status symbols, he once spent millions on a party in Tangiers.

At the time of purchase, he already had a ranch in Colorado, an estate in New Jersey, a Wren-designed house in London, a chateau in France (with a balloon museum) and a palace in Morocco (home to the world's largest collection of toy soldiers). But Forbes was interested in acquiring a kingdom that had what he called the "idyllic factor", and trawled the islands of the South Pacific for more than three years in order to find the virgin beaches and green seas of Eighties Martini ads.

Forbes, reputedly bi-sexual with an obsessive motorbike fetish (he owned more than 70 and gave his friend Elizabeth Taylor one called *Purple Passion*), died in 1990. This week his self-sufficient tropical paradise is going on the market for \$10 million (£6.35 million).

Because Laucala is situated only 190 miles from Nadi, site of Fiji's international airport and 135 miles from Suva, the capital, those who grow weary of the sunshine and warm waters can fly back to rejoin the outside world with minimum fuss.

Although there are more than 344 islands and islets in the archipelago (only 100 are inhabited), Laucala is special because it has running water, electricity and a huge potential for tourism.

The island was appealing enough for William Bligh, the hapless captain of the *Bounty*, to stop and take note of its precise location, although he never made it on to the beach.

The scenery is everything you would expect of the hyperbolic world that travel brochures love to call Paradise. There are stunning coral reefs,



shell-coated beaches and enough coconuts to make a lifetime's supply of Bounty bars.

The mountainous interior is rugged and beautiful with rainforests, exotic birds, top-heavy mango trees and the sort of giant ferns usually restricted to the pages of dinosaur books.

Forbes's home is situated at the highest point. Squinting down on his kingdom, he could keep his chests of gold under surveillance and pre-empt attacks by modern-day pirates. The house itself is not extravagant, although a little self-consciously simple.

There is a living room, terrace, kitchen, two bedrooms, two bathrooms and a swimming pool at the front. Seven holiday homes with woven walls and cathedral thatched roofs (known locally as *bures*) nestle under the palms and look out to sea. Perfect accommodation for noisy guests.

The Plantation House sits on the edge of the hill. Built in 1920, it is a wood-framed building with a wide veranda.



high ceilings and rattan furniture. Forbes, known to both friends and employees as The Boss, held extravagant dinners there for visiting disciples. The island janitor will shake up in the Manager's

House, which has two bedrooms, a veranda and sea views.

Every empire needs education, religion and snacks; happily there is a school, white-framed church and general store, built by Forbes.

The village itself is home to Fijians who work on the island, and there are roughly 220 of them. A Canadian couple presently manage the island and maintain tourist

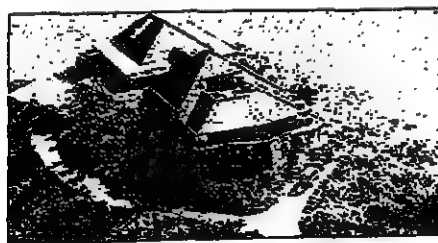
activities with the help of 55 locals.

According to the brochure, they are "friendly people" known for their enthusiastic greeting of "Bula!". It further reassures the nervous potential buyer: "The islands are free of malaria... [there are] no dangerous land animals or crocodiles... Enjoy nature without risk."

Agents: Knight Frank: 0171-629 5171

Island idyll: Laucala, the Fijian hideaway. The late Malcolm Forbes had his own home built high in the mountains. But his party guests could luxuriate in the seven extravagantly appointed holiday homes known as *bures* (above and left)

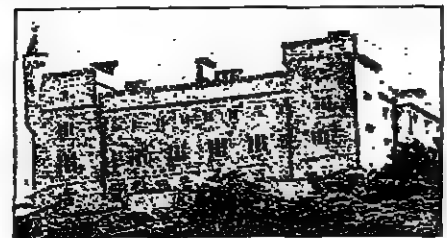
DREAM ISLANDS



DAVID AND FREDERICK BARCLAY, owners of *The European* and *The Scotsman* newspapers and *The Ritz*, bought the lease of the island of Breckhou (right), one of the Channel Islands, in 1993 for £2.3 million. They built an imposing mock-Gothic castle with a chapel, two indoor swimming pools and an indoor all-weather garden, at a cost of around £27 million. The island also has its own water and electricity supply.



RICHARD BRANSON owns the paradise island of Necker (left), one of the Virgin Islands in the Caribbean. He bought the formerly uninhabited, 74-acre island from Lord Cobham in 1979 for £200,000-£300,000 and had a Ball-styled ten-bedroom house built of Brazilian wood on Devil's Hill. The island, with its own lake, has a freshwater swimming pool on the edge of the hill, a tennis court and a gym.



MARLON BRANDO owns the beautiful South Pacific island of Tetiaroa (left), the largest of a chain of undeveloped islands which he bought for £20,000 during the filming of *Mulholland Drive* in 1966, and has used as a retreat from the rat-race in Hollywood for himself and his family. The island, which is only accessible by air, now has an airstrip, a six-room schoolhouse, several bungalows, sawmills and the actor's luxurious palm-thatched mansion.



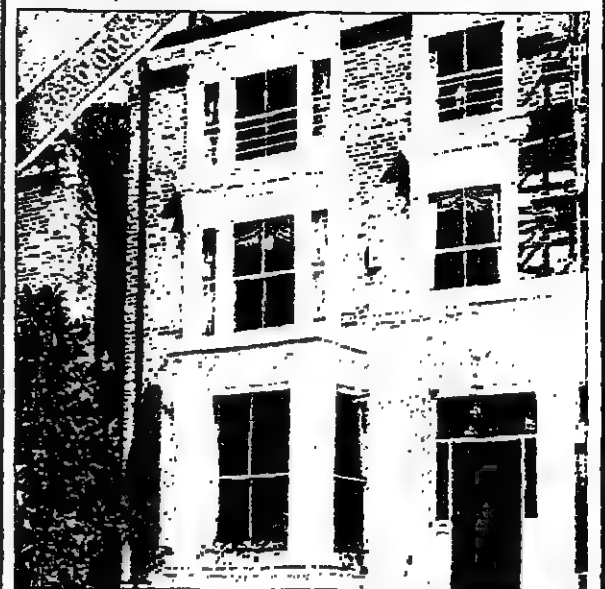
Star guests: Forbes entertained Elizabeth Taylor

HOUSES WAP

A SHORTAGE of good property in Clapham - from one-bedroom flats at £85,000 to double-fronted, seven-bedroom Victorian houses at £1.5 million - coupled with increased demand from city buyers looking for a London pad close to the Tube, has fuelled price rises of 30 per cent in 18 months. Galliered flats in Edwardian school conversions at £215,000 and three and four-bedroom Victorian terraced houses, with large gardens, near Clapham Common, at £600,000 plus, are the most popular, says estate agent Friend & Falcke.

Four to five-bedroom detached houses from £120,000 to £200,000 within commuting distance of Newcastle are in constant demand, says agents Savills. Relocating executives in Newcastle looking for family homes are moving to the countryside around Corbridge and Hexham, 15 miles west of Newcastle, where prices have increased by up to 10 per cent this year. Country houses look cheap, priced from £300,000 for a six-bedroom Georgian house in five acres.

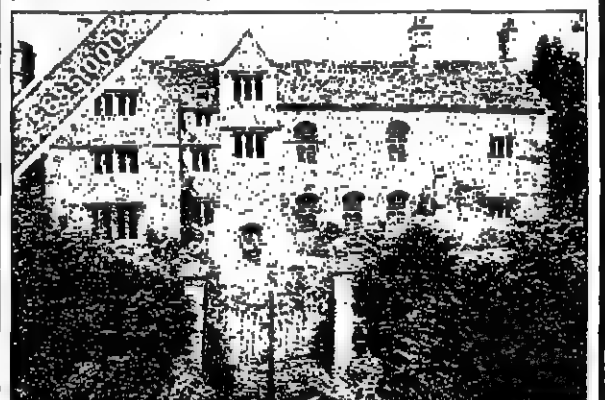
Country houses in more than five acres of horse paddocks, costing from £350,000 to £650,000, are like gold dust in Northamptonshire. With St Pancras an hour by train from Kettering or 35 minutes from Milton Keynes, the whole area is commutable and highly sought after. Popular areas include fox-hunting country between Northampton and Market Harborough and west towards Banbury, where prices have gained up to 12 per cent this year, says Quentin Jackson-Stops, of Jackson-Stops & Staff.



For £580,000 you could buy this four-storey semi-detached four-bedroom Victorian house, with a garden, in The Chase, Clapham Old Town, near Clapham Common underground station (Friend & Falcke, 0171-498 0736).



In the same price range (£595,000) is Southend House, a restored nine-bedroom Victorian mansion in a four-acre garden at Whitburn, to the east of Newcastle, Tyne & Wear. It comes with a ballroom, snooker room, swimming pool complex and a stable block (Savills, 01904 620731).



A similar sum (£585,000) will buy a manor house fit for a king in Northamptonshire. The 12th-century Grade II*-listed Manor House at Brigstock, in four acres of garden and paddocks, was once owned by King John. It has ten bedrooms, five reception rooms, a separate self-contained two-bedroomed flat and outbuildings (Savills, 01780 766222).

CHERYL TAYLOR

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A VET WRITES

Q We bought a British Shorthair kitten from a reputable breeder about a year ago. She had been given all her inoculations. About a month after we had her, she developed breathing problems and a discharge from her eyes and nose. We've taken her to the vet countless times. She's had X-rays, blood tests and antibiotics. Now we are told she has a chronic sinusitis which is likely to recur and there's no cure. She enjoys life, eats well and seems healthy except for this catarrh problem. Can anything be done?

A A number of vets specialise in feline medicine. Ask your vet if he thinks a consultation would help. I think the chances of a complete cure are poor. It appears your kitten was infected with "cat flu" before you bought her, although there may not have been any signs at the time. Vaccination isn't effective, the germs are established and can't be eliminated. You'll be happier if you get a second opinion and it is quite likely that treatment will improve things.

Q I read in *The Sunday Times* that 65 dogs and 69 cats died in quarantine last year, which is 1.6 per cent of the 8,178 animals imported. I think this is terrible and, in itself, a reason for abolishing quarantine. What's your opinion?

A The "if only" factor comes in — if only he hadn't had to go into quarantine. But every pet dies one day. Quarantine lasts six months, so 1.6 per cent in half a year is slightly less than one would expect. Rabies has occurred more than once in quarantine in the past 30 years and the "hardly ever happens" argument makes no more sense than scrapping the smoke alarm because the house hasn't caught fire.

Q Our Labrador puppy is nearly six months old. We don't want to breed from her. When will she come into season and when should she be spayed?

A Her first heat will probably be next February-March. She will be old enough and spring is the natural time for dogs to mate. Ask your vet when he prefers to operate. Some suggest that the bitch has one season first so that she is fully developed. Others feel it is better that the operation is carried out earlier — any time from now onwards. There is nothing wrong with either approach.

JAMES ALLCOCK

The friendliest way to join the rat race

Forget the verminous image and cuddle up to an affectionate rodent, writes Alistair Riley

Rats have always had an image problem. They are seen as filthy, verminous, creepy creatures that steal food, transmit diseases and destroy farmers' livelihoods. The rat population in Britain is soaring — a 1995 national rodent survey concluded that rats now outnumber humans in Britain.

But that is only one type of rat — the one that is high on Rentokil's most wanted list, the subject of the nightmare of Room 101 in George Orwell's *Nineteen Eighty Four*. A rat by another name — the domestic Fancy Rat — is fast becoming one of Britain's favourite household pets.

The two are as different as chalk and the stuff put in mouse traps. "Domesticated rats are the same species as wild rats (*Rattus norvegicus*) but have entirely different temperaments," says Angela Horn, who keeps 30 rats at her

"Or even earlier — a sort of ratty gymslip mum of five weeks old," says Angela, who is a leading light in the National Fancy Rat Society, which holds its 21st anniversary symposium in London today for the benefit of its 600 members and the rest of the country's growing number of rat-lovers.

One has 150 extremely active rats and another keeps her former rodent companions in the freezer until she can make suitable burial arrangements.

Another doesn't mind if her pets join her in the bath, and a fellow member sums it up by saying: "If there are no rats in heaven, I'm not going."

On show will be varieties ranging from the rare Himalayan, with its white body, red eyes and sepia brown points on nose, ears, feet and tail, to the more common hooded, with its white body with coloured hood covering head and shoulders and extending in a continuous line down the spine to the tail.

Speakers will talk on the history of the Fancy Rat, common ailments and how to treat them, genetics, ratkeeping and showing the Fancy Rat. There are dozens of rat shows around the country annually, where judges place emphasis on health and temperament before considering looks.

On sale will be the society's bi-monthly magazine — called *Pro-Rata*, with small ads ("rat-sitter wanted") and a batched, matched and dispatched column. Sadly, most of the notices are for dispatched rats, wishing them well in raty heaven. The society is wired up for the millennium, and has its own web site on the Internet.

Angela Horn and her husband Graham decided to keep rats three years ago when they moved to London and couldn't have large animals.

They started off with Snowie the albino, Patch, a black-and-white hooded, and Black Sweep; they have had in total more than 150 rats, though never more than about 30 at



Tickling the fancy: the domestic Fancy Rat, affectionate and ideal in small flats, is fast becoming one of Britain's favourite household pets

a time, and they give away most of the babies. (There is little money to be made in breeding rats. Even a top quality specimen fetches only £8.)

Angela and Graham say it costs about £2 a week to look after a couple of rats, after an initial outlay of £40 for a cage at least 2ft long.

They spend £5 weekly on rabbit food, with occasional dog mix, for her 30-strong ratpack, and another £200 to £300 a year on vet fees, mainly on neutering or having tumours removed.

She spends about an hour playing with her pets during the morning

feed, and the same again in the evening.

"That's how much I love rats," she says. "And so would anyone else who gets to know them. You'd be surprised how much fun and mischief there is packed into one small furry animal."



Rats enjoy companionship. Angela Horn plays with hers for an hour each morning and evening after their feed

'If there are no rats in heaven, I'm not going'

FANCY THAT

■ The National Fancy Rat Society's symposium is at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, London WC1, today from 10am. Admission: £7.50 children, £15 adults, inclusive of lunch.

■ For a leaflet on ratkeeping, send a large SAE to Angela Horn, 26 King's Orchard, Eltham, London SE9 5TL. ■ NFRS website: <http://www.cabletel.co.uk/nfrs>.

Are horse-whisperers taking people for a ride? Carolyn Henderson meets the real thing



Richard Maxwell: understanding horses' body language

When the Nicholas Evans novel about a horse whisperer galloped to the top of the best-seller charts, there was a surge of real-life claimants to the title. Some claim to be able to read horses' thoughts, others massage "unhealthy auras" and yet more relate behavioural problems to a horse's past lives.

It is a phenomenon that leaves many vets and experts bemused, amused — and worried that horses might suffer because owners tend to put sensational claims before science and skill.

"The classic one I had was a horse who was presented as being very stiff," says Andy Bathe, equine surgeon at Cambridge University Veterinary Hospital and vet to the British three-day event team.

"The owners said, 'We've had the back man and he didn't do any good. Then we

had the horse whisperer and he couldn't help, so we thought we'd better try the vet.'"

The horse actually had navicular disease in the front feet, which made it lame.

"I've had two other horses brought to me that horse whisperers said had kidney problems, but the problems turned out to be in the feet. I'm open-minded, but I've yet to be impressed by a horse whisperer."

Classical riding teacher Heather Moffett agrees. "There are a lot of charlatans, and it makes me cross that they are taking people's money. I do believe that there are people who have a healing gift, but there are an awful lot who have simply jumped on the bandwagon. I know one woman who was told that her horse was unhappy because he didn't like his name!"

Walks like a man, thinks like a horse

Trainers who work wonders without claiming psychic powers are now having to fight to distance themselves from mumbo-jumbo. Richard Maxwell is a prime example — a man who thinks like a horse, whose success is rooted in his understanding of the horse's psychology.

By using the horse's body language and working with its instincts, he achieves results that are making conventional trainers take a new look at their approach. He has had every equine horror story you can think of at his Cambridge-shire yard — rears, bolters, and buckers — but of the 800

plus horses he has dealt with, only a dozen proved impossible to help.

A former member of the Household Cavalry, Maxwell trained with the American horseman Monty Roberts, who broke in a wild mustang for BBC's *QED* series.

Nigel Davenport, chairman of the National Equine Welfare Council and director of the Blue Cross horse protection scheme, says trainers like Roberts and Maxwell are "the modern way forward". He puts his faith in vets and proven trainers rather than whisperers.

He says: "When someone

comes out of nowhere and starts saying strange things, I take it with a pinch of salt."

"It's good to see more compassion in training — but the good horsemen and women have always worked with compassion. There's no point in getting a horse to do things if he's in pain."

Max, as everyone calls Maxwell, winces at the label "horse whisperer" and talks about understanding instinctive behaviour. "People talk as if it's some kind of mystic art that only a few people in the world can do. It's not," he says.

"Of the horses that come here, 98 per cent have physical problems," Max says. His first step is to put these right with the help of dental, manipulative and veterinary specialists. He then tunes into the horse's natural communications system to build trust and respect,

until it looks on him as the herd leader. The process, where he shows the horse that staying with him is more comfortable than running away, plays a key part. "You make him accountable for his actions," he explains.

Max says he is never frightened. "The minute fear enters your mind, you have to stop. If you take fear to an animal which is already frightened, you add to it. Fear travels through your muscle tone and the way you move. It probably changes the way you smell, too. Horses have a good sense of smell and an incredible sense of movement and direction — if you move in a frightened way, they'll pick it up."

● Richard Maxwell can be contacted on 01223 830856. He is fully booked for the next three months, but does demonstrations throughout the country. Details on 01212 849131.

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A sudden flood from a hot-water hose and a hunt for the stopcock can dramatically destroy your confidence in the family home

Building up to a nervous breakdown

LIFE AND SOUL



JANE SHILLING

I t is 7.45am on Friday and I am moving about in what I hope is a calm yet purposeful manner ("Never run," a soldier of my acquaintance once advised me, "it only panics the men"), trying to put a dent in our as-yet-unblemished record of last child delivered to classroom by bursting-lunged mother. This morning, I say to Alexander, as I have every morning for the past two weeks, we are *definitely* going to get to school on time.

Accordingly, we have risen with the dawn, eaten our toast and Marmite and enjoyed a small amount of civilised conversation: "Who is my favourite character in *Star Wars*?" Alexander wants to know. I refrain from saying Jabba the Hut, which is the truth, and plump for Han Solo, before realising that I can hardly answer, "because I quite fancy Harrison Ford", to the next question which is, of course, "Why?"

I have issued the child with his school uniform, together with a detailed description of what the little boy-eating monster who lives at the bottom of the knot hole in my bedroom floor will do to him if it isn't on, the right way round, yes, all of it, by the time I come back upstairs.

... And indeed I am just about to walk sedately back up the stairs, get dressed, put my eyeliner on and set off for school in a quiet and orderly fashion when I hear the sound of running water.

Have I left a tap on in the bathroom? I have not. In the kitchen? Nope. But these are the only two places in the house from which water might run, so what is with this noise? It is coming from the region of the boiler. More than that I cannot tell, on account of the fact that the house is done up in a style of Shakespearian minimalism that was the last word in chic when we bought it. The fridge, the boiler, the cupboards, the shower — all are clad in a seamless expanse of white tongue-and-groove boarding. And behind it, invisible but sinisterly audible, water is flowing. As I stand gaping in the kitchen, a trickle emerges from the cupboard under the sink and forms a puddle on the floor. From it, a small cloud of vapour rises.

I am transfixed. My house is having a

haemorrhage. Its steaming lifeblood is pouring all over my kitchen floor. Worse, the building that I have always felt was my protector, the only fixed point in my rather turbulent life, has turned against me and is dying before my eyes.

Oh really, I say to myself. Get a grip. Where is the stopcock? How do I know where the stopcock is? Do you know where the stopcock is? Well, yes, I expect you, dear reader, know exactly where it is, and could put your hand upon it any time you felt inclined. But out here in gilly-land, where our lists of Important Things To Do begin with "I. Ask Rachel whether Rouge Noir nail varnish now

too hopelessly passes for words" and end with "2b. Make Will". Find How To Turn Water Off At The Mains is right down there with Fill In Tax Form and Clear Out Kitchen Cupboard.

And now it is 8.30 and if we do not leave the house this minute we shall be late yet again and Alexander's Milk Monitor's stripes will be publicly torn off and it will be all my fault.

The flood advances another half-inch towards me. I turn on the hot tap, rather hopelessly, and say to Alexander in an I Am On Top Of This Situation sort of voice that it will be all sorted out by the time he gets home, *promise*. ("Don't

worry, mum," he says, brightly, "I'll mend it for you when I get back.") At this rate, he may very well have to.

Back from the school run, I open the front door and find that the hot-water lake has now proceeded as far as the dining-room floorboards, artistically stripped only weeks ago by Darren the Utterly Reliable Builder. Suddenly I recall that the man who did the structural survey made some remark about a stopcock. This is the first useful thought I have had all morning. I splash to the cupboard where the survey is filed, and turn to the page marked Plumbing.

"The mains stopcock is concealed without the tongue-and-groove housing to the lavatory cistern," says the report. "We recommend that access be provided as a matter of urgency." Oh, great. Still, it is a start. Now, where is the torch? It is not in the torch cupboard. Last time I saw it, it was fixed to the front of the spacecraft in which Alexander was flying to the aid of the universe. Armed with the

only means of illumination I can find — Alexander's Thomas the Tank Engine flashlight — I wade to the bathroom and, lying prostrate on the floor, apply the flashlight to a minute aperture next to the U-bend. At first, all I can see is Thomas's imbecile grin, projected on to the bricks opposite me. But then, the gleam of a little metal tap detaches itself. I stuff my hand into the hole and turn. The sound of running water stops.

Well, that's it, really. An impassive man came and sorted it all out ("Got a hole in your hot-water hose, love"). He had to jenny the sink out with a crowbar first, mind you. I mopped up the lake and it was, as promised, all back to normal by the time Alexander got home.

Except that it isn't quite back to normal. I used to love that house like a friend but now, as I wander around it, I keep noticing things that are wrong — cracks in the wall, flaking paintwork, a nasty patch of damp festering in a beam, ominous creaks and groans at the dead of night. When we moved in, it was fashionably distressed. Now it feels more like a building on the verge of a nervous breakdown. And somehow, I don't trust it quite the way I used to.



Third Ager: There is active life after the age of 65

Grandpa, what do you get up to all day?

When people found themselves exhausted by life at the age of 45, grandparents used to conform to consoling stereotypes. Grannies permed their hair into tight grey curls and took up crochet; grandads puffed on their pipes and pottered among their plants.

A curious thing has happened in the past few decades. The age of exhaustion is getting higher. With role models like Olympic sprinter Linford Christie (a grandad at the age 35), grandpa Mick Jagger still prancing and pouting at 54, and gorgeous granny Nanette Newman, this third generation is no longer content to decline gracefully into small people in slippers. They are all too busy finding themselves.

Forget crochet and croquet: grandparents are worrying their children, says Geraldine Bedell

The 18 million people in Britain aged 50 and over have a higher life expectancy than ever before (74 for men and 80 for women, compared to 45 and 49 respectively in 1901). Typically, they have got rid of their dependents, finished paying off their mortgages, may have inherited money and are living for themselves.

Total consumer spending in the UK in 1991 was £335.5bn. People over 50 spent £148.5 of this, 8 per cent more per person than average.

One grandfather of my acquaintance took up surfing when he retired and now spends much of the year on a beach in north Cornwall in

pursuit of the perfect wave. He has begun to get something approaching a surfer's body and would probably have grown a pony tail if only he were not bald.

One widowed grandmother joined a dating agency, fell in love and remarried only to lose her second husband within five weeks — because, it was widely rumoured, of too much sex. With an impressive disregard for what the neighbours might think, this Granny Spice has now taken up with the man down the road.

Granny power is everywhere. The surfer and the serial monogamist do not think of themselves as OAPs or as anything with connotations of fading, reduction and decline, but as Third Ager. They have time and money and they mean to make use of both.

A recent survey for Saga Services, the personal finance company targeted at people over 50, found that their customers' largest annual expenditure was on holidays,



Glamorous grandfather: Linford Christie, now a venerable 37, an Olympic sprinter — and also a grandparent

and that those holidays were becoming increasingly adventurous. This group also splashed out on cars and home improvements. They have acquired sweatshirts instead of shawls (liable to get caught in the spokes of the exercise bike) and swapped the crochet for yoga, which they ideally like to practise on a Greek island or in a Tibetan monastery.

This is disturbing for their children. For many of us, the notion of celebrating Grandparents' Day (today) by rushing round to our parents with talcum powder and chocolates could not be more misplaced.

For one thing, they probably would not be in. Between my mother's USA (University of the Third Age) classes and committee work for the adult education institute, art galleries, theatre, music, fitness, etc, it is practically impossible to make an appointment to see her. If you want her to babysit, you have to ring her up weeks in advance.

The writer Jilly Cooper is an eloquent champion of sixty-

something romance. "Now that I am 60 I understand the lust and longings of this age group. I like to think of it as sex between autumn flowers — lovely."

She added: "My son was horrified when his grandparents decided to sleep in separate bedrooms — he thought they were getting a divorce. My mother took him to one side and said: 'It's only because granddad snores so much, but don't worry, we still have our nice times.'"

"There are some wonderful old ladies here in Gloucestershire. One grand old dame got herself a lover at 80. When asked if it was platonic, she replied, 'Certainly not, but I do ration it to twice a week.' Another resigned as head of a Women's Institute, confiding to a friend that it was so she could have sex in the afternoon."

This older-person dating worries some adult children enormously. It is always diffi-

cult to think of your parents having sex, but to think of them actually choosing to do it with someone new, and for pleasure, can be quite disgusting.

Rampaging Third Ager are also posing new protocol and etiquette problems. If, for instance, your mother and her lover come to stay, should you put them in the same bedroom?

John Morgan, author of *Debut's Guide to Etiquette and Modern Manners* who also writes for *The Times*, says: "Just as the modern parent has to be accommodating about their offspring's love life, today's grown-up child must not be puritanical about the born-again sex life of a parent."

"Traditionally, you are supposed to ask the woman what arrangement she would prefer, as it is generally accepted that men would always rather have a double bed. So ask your mother."

John Morgan's advice on etiquette, page 30



Mick Jagger: A grandfather — and still rocking at 54



Nanette Newman: Actress, grandmother and only 58

'The day I kneed a burglar in the groin'



Lady Kennet: "I never feel that life has left me behind"

LADY KENNET, who writes as Elizabeth Young, is the wife of the hereditary peer Lord Kennet, who served in the Ministry of Housing and Local Government (later the Department of the Environment) in Harold Wilson's government.

"My first great-grandchild was born on the day last year that I kneed a burglar in the groin," she said. "I have six children and a large number of grandchildren. Old age has not resulted in any reduction of my activities: I have fewer people to cook for now and more time to get on with things I'm interested in. I haven't given anything up. I'm a writer by trade and the kinds of things I write

about — political matters, arms control, architectural history — don't go away. I've contributed close on 5,000 words to the Government's defence review and I'm towards the end of helping to organise a conference on the EU fisheries policy.

"SOME old people do have a miserable time. But I'm not built to sit back. One's older friends do die off, which is miserable, and those abroad don't travel so much, but we do. This year we've been to Italy and France. My husband, who is 74, is in Ukraine this week. We're going to Romania later in the year and hope to go to India in December. We live part of

the time in Wiltshire, where we're involved in campaigns to protect Stonehenge and Avebury.

"Obviously we're busier than younger people, because we haven't got so many things that we've been building up. I'm not as interested in clothes as I used to be, but I've got enough old ones put away for when the fashion next comes round. I was looking today at a pair of stilettos that I bought 20 years ago that will be just the job for Christmas. I never get the sense that life has left me behind. That really is the last thing it's done."

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Can video collar their mass exodus?

BARRY GREENWOOD

The Catholic church hopes a film will solve its priest-recruitment difficulties, says Ruth Gledhill



Father James McCartney at his parish church of St Anne's

As vocations to the priesthood drop below replacement level, the Roman Catholic church has taken the unprecedented step of preparing a recruitment video promoting the joys of becoming a priest.

The video, to be issued to 4,000 secondary schools next month, counters the image of the celibate Catholic priesthood as a *Ballykissangel*-style idyll, or job devoid of excitement and dominated by a ceaseless round of saying Mass and hearing confession.

The priesthood is portrayed instead as an exciting and demanding career, likely to appeal to a wide range of young men seeking a challenge in life.

And while priests don't have much to write home about in terms of salary or worldly status, the aim is to persuade schoolboys that the spiritual and emotional rewards far outweigh the lack of material remuneration on offer.

The unparalleled recruitment drive comes at a time when the number of annual ordinations has fallen by a quarter in Britain, from 101 in 1978 to 76 in 1994. In 1994 alone the church lost 100 priests who passed away, on top of those who left to marry or for other reasons, meaning the replacement level is far below what it needs to be if the Catholic church is to sustain its ideal of a priest in every parish in Britain.

Figures for this year are expected to be even worse, with most dioceses reporting exceptionally

low morale among priests after the affair of Roderick Wright, the Scottish priest who eloped with a divorcee amid a torrent of publicity. The British decline contrasts with a healthy picture worldwide, where the number of young men entering seminaries to train for the priesthood has increased from 60,000 in 1975 to 105,000 in 1994.

The only significant departure from the British decline came after the Pope's visit in 1982, when vocations shot up for two or three years. The same phenomenon is currently being reported in France, in the wake of the Pope's recent visit there.

And in a further blow to the church, Catholic schools, once considered a rich recruiting ground for the priesthood, are being hit as increasing numbers of former pupils are breaking with tradition by sending their sons to non-Catholic schools, such as Eton, instead. From having a mere handful of Catholic boys in the 1970s, Eton now has 142 Catholic pupils out of a total of 1,280 and has even appointed a resident Catholic chaplain, Father David Forrester, to care for their spiritual needs.

Blaise Davies, a former monk at Ampleforth Abbey, Yorkshire, was commissioned to produce the video and poster campaign at a vocations conference in Rome last year. The footage features a young offender, once a notorious absconder from care who earned the nickname Spider Boy, in his conversion to Christianity and subsequent bap-



Fr McCartney, one of the stars of the video, talks to homeless youths in his parish. He has set up Thomas, an organisation helping those on the margins of society

ism. It shows two priests, Fr James McCartney of Blackburn and Fr Philip Sumner of Moss Side, Manchester, in their work with drug addicts, the homeless and people living on the margins of society.

It also shows hospital chaplain Fr Stephen Pritchard of Fazakerley, Liverpool, working with the terminally ill, and Fr Mike White of Alton Castle Retreat Centre in Derbyshire working with schoolchildren. The life of the trainee priest in a seminary in Chelsea, London is featured, as is the work that goes into preparing couples for marriage.

"In no way are we proselytising," says Mr Davies, 32, who decided the priesthood was not for him because of his desire one day to have a family of his own. Nevertheless, he still supports the ideal of the celibate priesthood and worked



The recruitment video shows a young offender converting to Christianity and being baptised by a prison chaplain, Father Patrick Cope

closely with Ampleforth for several years, leaving recently to set up his own company, Purple Media.

"Negative images of the clergy in the wake of the Roderick Wright affair, coupled with more light-hearted ones such as Father Ted and *Ballykissangel*, do little to

inform the 96 per cent of the population which has little to do with church about the day-to-day challenges facing the average priest," he says.

"It was not uncommon a generation or so ago for priests to suggest to young men that they may have a

vocation to the priesthood," he says. "It was accepted at that time that the priest was part of the family and he featured greatly in their lives."

"Such an environment, coupled with regular churchgoing, made priesthood normal and made marketing it relatively easy."

"Now, with all the social changes and the prominence of church-related scandals, many members of the clergy feel, albeit falsely, that their currency has been devalued and that their relationships with lay people are viewed with suspicion."

Fr McCartney, 35, the parish priest of St Anne's, Blackburn, says he left his former career as a hospital technician to find spiritual satisfaction as a priest.

At St Anne's, he has set up Thomas, an organisation to help those on the margins of society, and

also publishes a quarterly magazine, *Edges*, carrying articles by bishops alongside articles and poems by drug addicts, prostitutes and homeless people.

"I was interested in the spiritual dimension, in transcendence and mystery," he says. "Working in an operating theatre at Manchester Royal Infirmary, I began to question the meaning of life. I came across a lot of people who were dying. I didn't really find fulfilment in what I was doing."

In his parish, in the heart of Blackburn's red-light district, he finds spiritual satisfaction in seeking God among the ruins of the lives of those who attend his day centre. Many are being helped by him to escape lives blighted by drug addiction and alcoholism. "Without the people on the streets, I don't think I would have been ordained," he says.

Credo

God's message is one of hope

Dr Jonathan Sacks

Rosh Hashanah — the Jewish New Year which begins this Wednesday evening — signals the start of ten days of intense self-examination culminating in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. For me these days have never lost their power to create an atmosphere of vivid spirituality. The synagogue is full. And from the sound of the ram's horn on Rosh Hashanah to the climax of the fasting and prayer on Yom Kippur, you can almost touch the divine presence.

We come before God, bringing Him our lives and our shortcomings. We think of the past year, the wrong we did, the people we hurt and the good we failed to do. For a moment, the synagogue becomes a courtroom and God a judge. We plead, not our innocence but our all-too-frequent guilt. Yet despite the solemnity of this drama, its ultimate message is one of hope.

The reason is that at the heart of these days is the idea of divine forgiveness. God does not ask us to be perfect. In giving us freedom, He empowers us to make mistakes. All He asks is that we acknowledge them, make amends where we can and dedicate ourselves to doing a little better next time.

Forgiveness is a profoundly religious idea. It flows from a particular conception of the universe and our place in it. Reality is more than a set of blind forces, the genetic stream, the survival of the fittest, the march of technology or the play of the market. Beneath them all, more distant than the stars, closer than our innermost thoughts, is a Thou to whom we speak in prayer and who speaks to us in the silence of self-knowledge. God is the face of otherwise faceless chance, our one assurance that hope is not an illusion.

Without God, fate would seem immeasurably cruel. The poor, the sick, what the brother of Diana, Princess of Wales called "the constituency of the rejected", would be the victims of inexorable forces — war, famine, economic progress. There would be

no reason to suppose things could be otherwise. But if at the heart of the universe there is a God who cares, no fate is final. Reaching out to God we find Him stretching out His hand to us, giving us the strength to begin again. Our worst failures can be overcome. Our worst wrongs can be forgiven. More than we believe in God, God believes in us.

I recently visited a drug rehabilitation centre. I wanted to deepen my understanding of repentance (in Hebrew, *teshuvah*). On the Jewish High Holy Days we believe that by reflecting on the past, seeing where we went wrong and expressing our remorse, we can break its hold on us and change into better human beings. I thought that by talking to young drug addicts trying to break the habit, I would gain an insight into what changes lives. It was a profoundly moving experience. They were

likeable young people who had never had much of a chance. They came from broken families. Many had a history of child abuse. I could understand why they wanted to escape from pain. I admired their courage now in fighting addiction.

I asked the director what, in her view, were the most important things the centre gave them. She said: "This is the first place they have encountered unconditional love. And we are the first people who care enough about them to say no."

The more I thought about it, the more I realised she had expressed the great truth about God's love for us. It is unconditional. There is an absolute difference between good and evil, right and wrong. God cares enough about us to say no. But it is unconditional. However often we fail, God never gives up on us. For me, that belief is the source of courage, strength and hope. God's love is the bridge from what we are to what we are called on to be.

• Dr Sacks is the Chief Rabbi.

First steps on a journey into the light

Ruth Gledhill visits a London parish which has acquired not only a retired bishop as its new vicar, but also his son



After languishing without a vicar of their own for more than a year, the parishioners of St James in Clerkenwell, north London, are still in a state of elated surprise, having landed the ministry of not only a retired bishop, but of his son as well.



Father and son: the Baughens

share the preaching with his son: "It will be wonderful to work with my son. He has tremendous gifts and it is a great delight to be able to learn from him."

We were at the church, which counts *The Guardian* newspaper

building at one end of its parish and poverty-ridden council estates at the other, for the licensing and installation of the two men. Bishop Baughen is tall, but his son is more so, at 6ft 6in. Towering over his father, he unveiled his plans for this unsuspecting parish. "The journey into the light" was to begin with toddler groups, a Tuesday club for the elderly, aerobics and uniformed clubs. There is to be "JC Works", a ten-week introduction to Christianity, "TGI Sunday", a fast-moving bible, drama and singing show on Sunday mornings and "JC Access", an evening discussion, music and preaching group. Christians are not asked to leave their current churches, but maybe to "take a sabbatical" and "come as a launcher" to St James. The

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key words are praying, building, loving, submitting, speaking, giving and receiving.

First there was the licensing by Dr John Sentamu, the Bishop of Stepney, also an evangelical, who preached, and the installation by

the Ven Clive Young, Archdeacon of Hackney, Rachel Baughen, wife of Bishop Baughen, read from Philipians. A beautiful, blond, baby Baughen, toddled around, demanding cuddles from her father. Father and son publicly declared their assent to the Anglican inheritance of faith. "The Church of England is part of the One, Holy Catholic and Apostolic church worshipping the one true God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit," the archdeacon said. "I, Andrew, I Michael, do so affirm, and accordingly declare my belief in the faith which is revealed in the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Catholic Creeds," said the two men. I left, pondering the phenomenon of evangelicalism enjoying a revival in our churches, but reflecting that this was one parish at least that was truly Baughen again.

• St James, Clerkenwell, London EC1V 4NP (0171-251 1190)

Church services tomorrow

<p>Last day before Armageddon ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 M; Canon H J W Moore: 3.15 Ch E. Summison in A.</p> <p>BANGOR CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M; Canon D. 11 Ch M; Te Deum in F (Hendri): 3.15 Ch E; 5.30 E.</p> <p>BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 M; I will lift up (Vaughan Williams): 11 S E: 3.30 Ch E.</p> <p>BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 M; 9.15 HC: 11 M; Ordination. Let all mortal flesh (Baird): 4 Ch E.</p> <p>BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch M; 10.30 E. Missa Brevis (Palestrina): 4 Ch E. Canon Hall.</p> <p>BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 11 E. Canon Hall. The Dean: 3.30 E.</p> <p>BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC: 10 Ch E. Ave Maria (Faure): 3.30. Responses (Smith).</p> <p>CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 M; 3.15 E. Rev G Davis: 6.30 Sermon & Communion.</p> <p>CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 Ordination. Ireland in C. Canon R. Frank.</p> <p>CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8.30 HC: 9.30 E. Canon D Knight: 11.15 S E: 6 Ch E.</p> <p>CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Oxford: 8 HC: 10 M. Canon Webster: 11.15 S E. Mass for four voices (Byrd): 6 E.</p> <p>CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 11 S E. 3.30 Ch E. Harwood in A flat.</p> <p>COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8.30 HC: 10.30 E. Missa Brevis in C (Mozart). Canon P. Oestreicher: 3 Farewell. Service for Bishop of Coventry.</p> <p>DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.45 E. Little Organ Mass (Haydn). Canon T. Chesterman: 6 Ch E.</p>	<p>ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S E. Schubert in G: 3.45 E.</p> <p>EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 M; 10 Ordination. Missa Sancti Nicolai: 3 E; 3.30 ES. Canon A. Mawson.</p> <p>GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.15 E. Canon R. Gray: 3 E. Collegium Regale (Howells).</p> <p>HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 E. Missa Brevis (Mozart). The Archdeacon of Hereford: 11.30 M; 3.30 E.</p> <p>LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M; 10.30 E. The Assistant Bishop: 4 Ch E. I lift my eyes (Baughen).</p> <p>LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30 S E. Ave verum corpus (Byrd): 3.30 E.</p> <p>LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 M; 10.30 E. 3 Harvest Festival. Let the people praise thee (Mathew): 4 HC.</p> <p>LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M & L: 8.9 E. 11 S E. Sunnison in F: 12.15 E. 3.30 Festal E: 6.30 Parish E.</p> <p>NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC: 9.30 S E. Mozart in C. Canon I. Bennett: 6 Ch E.</p> <p>NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M. Jubilate in A (Gray): 6.30 S E.</p> <p>NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC: 11 Ordination of Deacon: 3.30 Festal First Evensong of Michaelmas: 6.30 Young People's E.</p> <p>PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 E. Blair in B minor. Canon J. Tetley.</p> <p>PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 C; 11 S E. Missa O Quam gloriosum (Vittorio): 6.30 E. Canon T. Winterbottom.</p> <p>RIPON CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.30 Ordination: 11.30 M; 12.30 E. 5.30 E. Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis (Weelkes).</p>	<p>ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M; 10.30 S E. Beati Quorum Vis (Stanford): 3.15 First Evensong of St Michael and All Angels.</p> <p>SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M; 10.30 Ordination: 3 E. Geitliches Lied (Brahms). Canon J. Davies.</p> <p>SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 E. 11 Ordination: 3 Ch E. Give us the wings of faith (Bullock). Prowst.</p> <p>SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8 HC: 9.30 C; 11 S E. Stanford in B flat: 3.15 E.</p> <p>TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9 M; 10 S E. 3 Guide Dogs for the Blind Service: 6 E. Murrill in E. The Dean.</p> <p>WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M; 11.15 E. O Lord increase my faith (Loomore): 3 E; 5.45 Recital English Chamber Choir: 6.30 ES.</p> <p>WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7.8.9 Mass: 10.30 Solemn Mass: 12 Mass: 2.45 Organ Recital: 3.30 Vespers and Benediction. Ave verum corpus (Byrd): 5.30. 7 ES.</p> <p>WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M. Let all mortal flesh (Baird): 11.15 S E. 3.30 E. Rev N. Gurney.</p> <p>YORK MINSTER: 8.8.45 HC: 10 M; 11.15 E. Canon P. Ferguson.</p> <p>ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL: Clwyd: 8 HC: 11 Ch E. Stanford in B flat. Rev C. A. Miles: 3.30 EP.</p> <p>ST GILES' CATHEDRAL: Edinburgh: 8.10 MS & HC: 11.30 MS. Cantique de Jean Racine (Faure): 8 ES.</p> <p>ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL: Edinburgh: 8 E. 10.30 S E: 3.30 Ch E. Magnificat (Buxtehude).</p> <p>ST MACHARS CATHEDRAL: Old Aberdeen: 11 MS. O sing joyfully (Bathen): 6 ES. Rev R. Fraser.</p> <p>ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL: Dublin: 8.30 11 HC: 11.15 S E: 3.15 Ch E. Wind in F. R. Rev L. G. Urwin.</p>	<p>ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 8.45 M; 11 S E. Darkie in F. Canon J. Halliburton: 3.15 E: 5 Organ Recital.</p> <p>RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL: Ennismore Gardens, London, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy. Kievan and traditional polyphony. Met Anthony.</p> <p>ALL SAINTS: Margaret Street, W1: 8 LAM: 10.20 M; 11 HM. Messe Solennelle (Langlais). Rev I. Davies: 3.15 LM: 6 E & B.</p> <p>CHELSEA OLD CHURCH: SW3: 8 HC: 10 Children's Service: 11 M; 12.15 HC: 6 E. Rev D. P. Elvy.</p> <p>CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, 6.30 ES. Rev S. Hood.</p> <p>HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON: Brompton Road, SW7: 9 HC: 11 MS. Rev S. Millar: 5.7.30 Informal Service. Rev N. Gumbel.</p> <p>THE ORATORY: Brompton Road, SW7: 7.8.9.10.11.12.30 Mass: 3.30 Vespers & Benediction: 4.30. 7 Mass.</p> <p>ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: 11 Holy Mass. Archbishop Y. Giziyan.</p> <p>ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT: EC1: 9 HC: 11 M. Like as the hart (Howells): 6.30 Ch E.</p> <p>ST BRIDGES: EC4: 11 Ch M. Jubilate (Walton): 6.30 Ch E. Canon J. Oates.</p> <p>ST CLEMENT DANES: 11 Ch M, Te Deum and Jubilate (Boyce in C): 12.30 HC. Rev D. Mackenzie.</p> <p>ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Pont Street, SW1: 11.6.30 Rev W. A. Cairns.</p> <p>ST ETHELRED'S: Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Splendide Te Deum (Mozart).</p> <p>ST GEORGE'S: Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC: 11 S E. Darkie in F. The Rector.</p> <p>ST JAMES'S: Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S E. Rev The Bishop of Stockholm: 5.45 EP.</p>	<p>ST LUKE'S: Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 M; 11 S E. Darkie in F. Canon J. Halliburton: 3.15 E: 5 Organ Recital.</p> <p>ST MARGARET'S: Westminster, SW1: 10 M; 11 S E: 11.15 E: 3 E: 5.45 Recital: 6.30 ES. Sister H. Markey.</p> <p>ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS: WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 E: 11.30 Visitors to London Service. Rev A. Hurst: 2.45 Chinese Service: 5 Ch E: 6.30 ES.</p> <p>ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH: Kensington W8: 8 HC: 10.30 E. 11.15 Ch M. Rev P. Stubbs: 6.30 E.</p> <p>ST MARY'S: Bourne Street, SW1: 9.10 LM: 11 HM. Missa Ave maris stella (Victoria): 6 Solemn E: 7 LM.</p> <p>ST MARY-THÉ-VIRGIN: Primrose Hill: 8 HC: 10.30 E. Rev D. Jones.</p> <p>ST MARYLEBONE: Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC: 11 Ch E. Give us the wings of faith (Bullock).</p> <p>ST PAULS: Wilton Place, SW1: 8.9 HC: 11 E. Blessed city (Baird). Rev C. Courtland.</p> <p>ST PETER'S: Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC: 10 E: 11 S E. Mass for four voices (Byrd). Fr D. B. Tillyer.</p> <p>ST SIMON ZELOTES: Milner St, SW3: 8 HC: 11 M. Benedictus (Takiss). Fr M. McGowan: 6.30 E.</p> <p>ST STEPHEN'S: Gloucester Road, SW2: 9.10 LM: 11 HM. Simile est Regnum (Guerrero). Rev R. F. Bushau.</p> <p>CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA: HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: 11 M. Requiem est silentium (Durand). Rev P. R. C. Adams.</p> <p>CHAPEL ROYAL: Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC: 11 M. For he shall give his angels (Mendelssohn). 3.30 E.</p> <p>GUARDS CHAPEL: Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M. Alas That I Offended Ever (Hooper). Rev M. T. Ball: 12 HC.</p> <p>ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL: SE10: 11 S E. The Chaplain.</p>
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ROGER SCUTON/IMPACT



OCTOBER 10-12
Wildlife weekend on the coast of Pembrokeshire: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830083). Guided

Writing Gothic fiction: Singing opera choruses. Playing medieval drama. Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). From £159 residential, £59 non-residential.

Improve your watercolours: Bats and other small mammals. Lichens: At the Field Studies Centre, Flatford Mill, East Bergholt, Colchester (01206 296283). From £79 to £102, inclusive.

Ancient warfare, part one: Greek warfare: The Harpischord and its world: English manorial records: At the University of Cambridge, Fitzwilliam Hall (01864 210636). Fee per course £117, inclusive of accommodation.

Drawing from the model: Matisses: Everyone can sing: Two practical arts courses this weekend at the Wedgwood Memorial College, Barlaston, Stoke on Trent, Staffordshire (01782 372105). Price per course from £70.

(0633 628234). An insight into the world of antiques and fine art. Accommodation, all activities and tutored wine tastings from £190.

Cider and winetasting weekend on the Welsh border: With Acorn Activities of Hereford (01432 830883). Price. Inclusive of accommodation and tastings, £195.

Coastal and coastal landscapes: The Jacobite challenge. At Belstead House College, Ipswich (01473 666321). Prices per course from £75 inclusive.

Picture framing: Machine knitting: At Burton Manor College, South Wirral, Cheshire (0151 330 5172). From £98 inclusive.

Hedgelaying weekend: Mosses: Land and freshwater molluscs. Six Suffolk villages. At Flatford Mill Field Studies Centre, East Bergholt, Colchester, Essex (0206 266333). From £79 inclusive.

Painting: At Ashdown. Painting miniatures. Walking birds. At Highnam Hall, Bassett-Thwaite Lake, Cockermouth, Cumbria (017687 76276). Price per course £112 inclusive.

Intermediate French: Mixed media painting: Countryside walks and talks. Italian opera. At Hill Residential Centre, Aberystwyth, South

Wales (01873 855221). From £88 inclusive.

Garden painting at a classic English house, King Arthur.
Hypnosis and relaxation: At Knutsen Hall, Irchester, Northamptonshire (01933 312104). From £98 inclusive.

Conservation weekends: With the British Trust for Ornithology and volunteers. Wallingford, Oxfordshire (01491 839766). A variety of conservation projects need the help of willing hands. Weekend rates, full board and accommodation from £20. Skills taught include dry stone walling, thatching and hedge-laying.

Pottery, throwing and turning: Watercolours for beginners. Opera and recital masterclass: Introduction to woodturning: At West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 81301). From £150 residential and £97 non-residential.

Realities of the First World War: British teddy bears: What's the bird?
Walking the Ridgeway Path: At Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire (01494 890295). Prices are from £159 full board, or £59 non-residential.

ROBIN NEILLANDS

Rural recommendations

The place: Bolton Priory, Skipton, North Yorkshire

The appeal: An unspoilt, rural area of natural beauty.
Afficionados: Ramblers, birdwatchers and anglers.

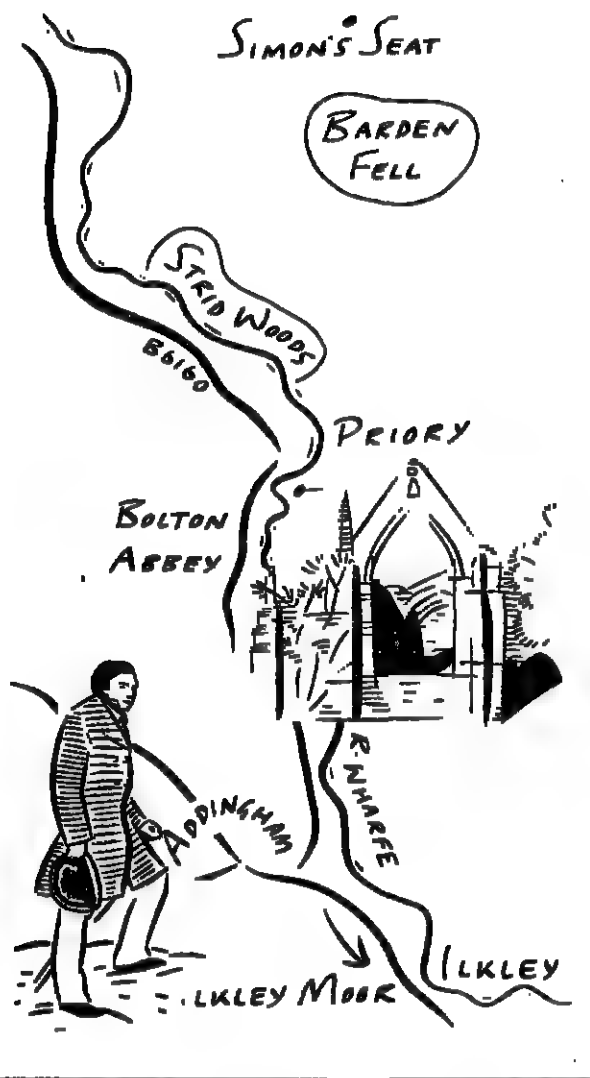
Historical interest: The impressive priory dates from the 12th century, when it was built for Augustinian canons after a young boy drowned in the deep, fast-flowing water of The Strid. The beautiful setting has inspired Wordsworth, Ruskin and Turner, who created a famous watercolour of the scene.

Time to visit: The grounds and nature trails are open all year round.

How to get there: B6160 to Bolton Abbey. From the village car park walk towards the "Hole in the Wall", and cross the river by footbridge or stepping stones.

Also nearby: 30 miles of nature trails through the Strid Woods. Fine trout fishing and six miles southeast lies Ilkley Moor.

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New
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Satellite technology allowing rural dwellers to keep an eye on their neighbours could also kill off at least one cherished tradition

To get a proper view of the countryside, you have to get up high. And I do not mean halfway up a mountain. Just a few feet will do, and then you will find yourself peering into a new and unobserved world. Elevate yourself a little more and you will suddenly realise that the countryside you thought you knew is a stranger to you.

I first learnt this some years ago when I owned a pair of fell ponies, Ebony and China, which I drove around the Suffolk lanes. The box seat — from where the carriage was driven — placed me a couple of feet higher even than Range Rover drivers: add to that the bonus of travelling at a sedate five or six miles per hour, and meandering through the English countryside becomes a revelation.

We found cottages in unsuspected places behind bramble-ridden gardens; we surprised gardeners who thought their beech hedges were high enough to prevent any intrusion; we gave cows a fright as we appeared over fences. An additional effect of the extra height was to

Sky spy threatens romp in the hay

push the horizon away from us by several miles, which offered a new appreciation of how our neighbouring farms and villages, until then viewed in isolation, related to each other.

So, having had a taste of wider vistas, I welcome the arrival next month of the EarlyBird satellite, which its commercial owners will use to supply spy photographs on demand. Although many of its customers will be fractious neighbours trying to settle disputes ranging from unauthorised car parking to illegal bonfire lighting, the effects on country life could be far more rewarding.

The pictures will be far from perfect, because only features greater than a metre across are visible. This rules out most individuals, but we will be able to spot the hedgecrows that are being secretly removed, the 4x4 drivers churning along unauthorised tracks, and the irrigation ponds built with hefty subsidy

being used as swimming pools or trout fisheries.

Slender trespassers, for the moment, will get away with their ramblings providing their rucksacks are not overstuffed; but landowners who fail to keep open their footpaths can be spotted and acted upon.

There is, of course, a civil rights aspect to all this: country dwellers may well complain at the gross intrusion into their privacy. Rural crime is rare compared with inner cities, so the arguments in favour of closed-circuit TV surveillance hardly apply. (This may change. I was stopped in a local market

DOWN TO EARTH



PAUL HEINEY

town to be told by an elderly lady that she had just "suffered a night of violence".

On closer questioning, she revealed in a shocked voice that two lads who had drunk a bottle of cider too many kicked a football down the street at one o'clock in the morning for all of five minutes.)

The ability of the satellite to pick up smaller details will surely increase. Farmers will soon be able to see where the rabbits burrow at night, which cars drop old bedsteads by gateways at dusk, and identify the picnickers who discard crisp packets on summer afternoons.

And in the field of pure nosiness, one of the traditional sports of country life, the satellite could be of great help.

Rural nosiness is largely innocent and born out of honest curiosity. The best example I know is that of farm workers a century ago. On Sunday afternoons, when farm work was suspended, their sport was to walk the lanes and peer over the gates of all the other farms, observing the standard of the workmanship and the straightness of the ploughing.

In extreme cases, such as wandering furrows, remarks were made later in the pub and legs severely pulled. I have often been tempted into nosy ways. We once had a neighbour who grew onions from seed with such success that his garden became a place of pilgrimage. If asked how he did it, his unhelpful reply was always "nowt special about onions".

Now we would be able to track him from above, and see the feed he was dosing them with, and whether it was by moonlight.

Another enigmatic keeper of Suffolk Pures would never reveal his secrets of feeding carthorses. His horses looked like Mr Universe, but when asked how he did it, he always replied, "they just eat what they get on the meadow".

What they ate there, of course, was more than just the grass. He was regularly eating buckets of something to them. But he took the secret to his grave. Had he been alive today, we could all have bought satellite pictures of his furive feeding and have carthorses looking like Charles Atlas.

It is bad news for those confiners of farm animals who try and kid us they have free-range hens, cattle or pigs. We shall be able to see exactly how much time the inmates of Sunnyjoy Farm actually spend in the open air. The only bad news is that the spy in the sky will be the death-knell of one keenly pursued rural pastime that has stood the test of time. It involves haystacks. Work it out.

New Forest ponies face a hard winter

Ray Bennett breathes in sharply and shakes his head. "It's getting more difficult all the time," he says. "The future is looking delicate, to say the least."

Bennett, 68, lives in the New Forest, where he runs more than 100 ponies on the forest commons. He has been a New Forest commoner for more than 30 years, buying and rearing his first pony in 1946.

Things were easier then, he says. There was a market for the ponies he reared. Now there isn't. New Forest ponies have, sadly, fallen out of fashion, and their future is now in the balance.

At this time of year the commoners round up their ponies in the annual pony drifts just as they have for centuries.

But this year as they worm them, brand them or sell them where they can find buyers, many commoners are heavy at heart. Where once foals were selling for 80 guineas each, now they fetch just 11 guineas.

"Prices are very bad. Through the years there has always been a demand for the ponies but now that has gone," he says. "The children of today want something bigger than a forest pony. And there isn't the demand for pit ponies any more either."

The number of New Forest ponies has declined from 4,200 in 1994 to 3,300 today. Sue Westwood, Clerk to the Verderers, a sort of medieval court responsible for the management of stock in the New Forest, believes that the commoners will have to breed better ponies to survive.

"The New Forest pony has not got the same appeal as some of the more flashy breeds such as the Welsh Cob," she says. "If this trend continues then commoning is at risk."

And if commoning is at risk, so too is the forest. "It is essential to the ecology of the forest. Commoning is the architect of the forest. If the stock

Decline of the once-prized pets endangers an ancient way of life, says Trevor Lawson



New Forest ponies are considered too small by children

wasn't there, it would become overgrown and inaccessible," says Westwood.

Cattle graze the forest but they are subsidised because they are classed as agricultural animals. But ponies receive no subsidy. Each commoner — you have to occupy land which has common rights attached to be able to run ponies — pays £15 per pony to the Verderers Court, which then pays "agisters" to supervise the stock.

"No commoner makes a living out of commoning any more. The cattle are more lucrative, but anybody with ponies has to have another source of income," says Westwood.

"People like to keep up a tradition, but not if it is losing them money."

Some 400 commoners exercise rights in the New Forest but few run the great herds of ponies that were once the norm.

"Nowadays we have hobby commoners. A lot of people do it because they like to see ponies," she adds. "People like to turn out two or three ponies now."

Some of the old hands have suggested these newcomers are not real ponymen. "They are very different, these New Age commoners," says Ray Bennett.

"They're not the same at all." Richard Stride, who is one of the forest's 10 verderers and whose great-grandfather was

a commoner, agrees: "They keep a couple of ponies for a hobby and they go off to London and say 'Oh I'm a commoner in the New Forest', but riding two ponies is all that the forest means to them."

Despite their comparatively amateurish attitude, the newcomers may yet turn out to be the saviours of the New Forest pony.

Often, they are wealthy enough to be able to withstand the losses that are currently associated with commoning. Yet

their presence symbolises the increasing commercialisation of the forest, which has put further pressure on common

land. In the 1960s, an Act of Parliament allowed certain roads to be fenced off because of accidents. Some years later, more roads were fenced off along with certain towns as heavier volumes of traffic rushed through the forest.

One commoner, Chris Anderson, says that the failure of one of his mares to come in with other ponies in the drift this year is simply another symptom of the trend.

"She might have been hit by a car and died in the bracken somewhere. More ponies get run down every year — there must have been 20 in the last couple of months," he says. Each pony lost, usually run over by a commuter rather than a tourist, takes with it £35 that might have been earned from a sale.

The fencing-off causes its

own problems. There is less forest now for the ponies. "It's getting smaller all the time," explains Ray Bennett. "There's less area for the ponies to run over."

"They used to be able to go into Lyndhurst but they can't do that any more. I am against further fencing, but the amount of traffic now passing through is so awful that they

cannot do anything else." Development, too, is taking its toll. Richard Stride, explains: "A forest man's place used to be small and the land just around it was used to bring in livestock in hard weather. Nowadays, it has been turned into a mini-mansion so the land is lost."

"You can't blame the people for doing it but they are ruining the forest because they don't want to run scores of ponies and why should they? There's no real money in it."

As the Ray Bennetts of the forest head off on horseback for the drifts this autumn, there will be little evidence of these "New Age" hobby commoners. For them, commoning is a fair-weather activity.



As the volume of traffic has grown over the years, so the room for the ponies to roam in has decreased, threatening the ecology of the forest

Watching the wary woodpigeon

FEATHER REPORT

THE British Trust for Ornithology has a new method of estimating the changes in the bird population of the United Kingdom. It is called the Breeding Bird Survey, and during the past two years it has taken the place of the old Common Birds Census, which ran for 35 years. The main difference is that the sample of the country that is now covered includes all the main bird habitats, including towns and moorland, whereas the old CBC confined itself to farmland; by the survey, the most widely distributed bird in 1996 was the woodpigeon, closely followed by the chaffinch, while the most abundant bird overall was the starling, closely followed by the woodpigeon. So the woodpigeon comes out strong.

You would not be surprised by that if you wandered through the newly ploughed fields at the moment. Sometimes you see in the distance what looks like an enormous misty blue cloud that has settled on the earth. When you get a little closer you see that it is a great flock of woodpigeons busily feeding. It is hard to get close to the flock, since in the country woodpigeons are wary birds, but if you stalk them you will see one fascinating feature.

The whole flock is moving forward slowly across the field. But in the front the birds are looking round them more and pecking at the ground less often. Sometimes these front



Woodpigeon, chaffinch and starling: Widely seen in Britain in 1996

birds even look a bit smaller and undernourished. They are the submissive members of the flock, rather frightened of the great body of dominant members behind them. They are likely to lead the way when the flock is alarmed and rises from the field with a thunderous roar of clapping wings.

Starlings also feed in the fields in large flocks at this time of the year, but they seem to have plenty of spare time. A characteristic autumn sound

is a party of them sitting in a tree making whirring and clicking calls, and occasionally a more musical whistle or trill. They often do this before all flying off to roost together.

Chaffinches also flock in the autumn, but many of these are immigrants from Scandinavia. Often they are pure hen parties, since the females desert the north sooner and travel further than the males. They make their headquarters in trees at the edge of a field, and drop down to

the ground to pick up seeds when the coast is clear. At the first sign of danger they fly up into the branches again. There is a constant movement up and down as each bird follows its own impulse. At a distance they look like leaves falling and being blown upwards at the same time.

Another set of figures in the new report shows changes in the numbers of different species between 1994 and 1996. On the whole, it makes cheering reading. Common partridges, which have been in serious decline for some time, picked up a little over those two years, and summer visitors such as the willow warbler and garden warbler have made a recovery, suggesting that conditions have been better for them in their African winter quarters. Wrens, which a few years ago were the commonest British birds, were hit by the cold winter of 1995-96, but that is something that must have happened many times in their history. The farmland birds are still suffering most. The cheerful yellowhammer, which seemed to have escaped the fate of the corn bunting and linnet, has now joined them on the downward trend.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about Birds — mixed flocks of Tits, Goldcrests and Treecreepers in woodland.

Twitchoos — a First Winter Pled Wheatear on St Mary's, Isles of Scilly; a Wilson's Phalarope on the point of Ay, North Wales; a Richard's Pipit on Portland, Dorset. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222. Calls cost 50p a minute.

► REWARDING TIMES ◀

Objects of Desire

THE MODERN STILL LIFE

October 9, 1997-January 4, 1998 at the Hayward Gallery

An exclusive reader evening

Readers of *The Times* are invited to an exclusive private view of the first comprehensive exhibition to celebrate and explore the 20th-century still life.

The evening on November 6, 1997, from 6.30-8.30pm, includes a guided tour of the exhibition and an informal reception with wine in the Hayward Gallery on the South Bank, London.

The exhibition, created by the Museum of Modern Art in New York, brings together over 160 modern masterpieces from collections worldwide. Highlights include Marcel Duchamp's *Bicycle Wheel*, Man Ray's spike-covered iron, *Gift*, Matisse's *Goldfish and Palette*, Meret Oppenheim's fur-covered teacup and saucer, *Object*, a white *Lobster* Telephone by Salvador Dali, René Magritte's *The Interpretation of Dreams*, Jasper Johns's *Flag*, and *Brillo Boxes* by Andy Warhol.

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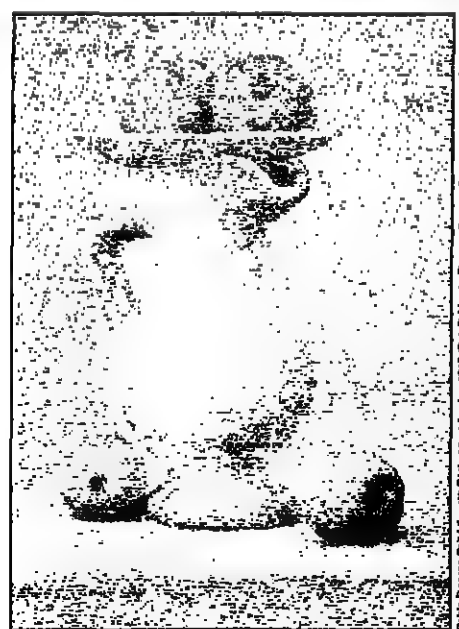


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Tickets: £12 (includes entrance to the exhibition, guided tour and drinks). Call the Hayward Gallery box office on 0171-960 4242. (Tickets must be purchased in advance. There is a £1 charge for telephone bookings for handling and postage). *Objects of Desire: the Modern Still Life* is organised under the auspices of The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art, New York.

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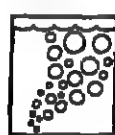
THE TIMES TRAVEL

What the
Dickens
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on here?

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Helmet diving is advertised as the only underwater experience in which you can keep your spectacles on. But in fact, the real attraction is that although the helmet is not sealed, air pressure keeps the water out — and your hair dry



A FEAR of drowning has a somewhat deadening effect on most exotic holiday activities — at least, that is my experience. If you are the sort of person who pictures their own lungs as a pair of crumpled plastic bags ready in balloon with gallons of salt water, snorkelling adventures tend not to be top of your must-do holiday list.

At Flatts Village in Bermuda, however, they operate a rather clever system called helmet diving, specially devised for neuritic weaklings and aquaphobes. It is advertised as the only underwater experience in which you can keep your specs on.

But it is more than that. Helmet diving is also one of the few underwater experiences in which you remain standing up and look very, very silly. It is inelegant. It looks ridiculous, and you don't see very much in the way of marine eco-diversity. But for certain unheroic types, standing ten feet underwater in a swimsuit breathing pumped air and keeping your hair dry feels like a giant step for recreational technology, if not for mankind.

The string of islands that composes Bermuda is arranged deliberately to have

maximum coastline for minimum land-mass, yet perhaps because the water is the wild blue Atlantic (and the wealthy resident population is temperamentally sedate), there is not so much mad plunging and diving into the fearful H₂O as elsewhere in the jet-set yachty world. Helmet diving fits the ethos of Bermuda nicely. Like Bermuda itself, helmet diving is safe, sensible, friendly, divided, clean. In short, it is for boring, unadventurous travellers like me.

So, the boat chugs off from its base at Flatts Village on the north shore, and as it heads towards its regular mooring spot of colourless, shallow coral reef, our bronzed instructor (we'll call him Joe) explains about the big glass-fronted brass helmets which are designed to sit loosely on your shoulders, their substantial weight stopping you from floating off the ocean floor. Joe also explains the simple physics by which the air pumped into the helmets through tubes keeps water out, even though the helmet is not sealed.

Miraculously, if you have an itchy nose, you can reach

Lynne Truss puts on a glass helmet, a nasal strip and a brave face and braces herself to wander the seabed around Bermuda

inside and scratch it. "Really?" we all say. The small group of (mainly fat) American tourists look unconvinced by all this reassurance, as am I. Forget physics: what happens if you fall over? Water would get in then, wouldn't it? An American child in a pink swimsuit spends most of the breezy outward journey teaching me how to do a useful facial trick called "fish lips" — rather ominous in the circumstances. I don't want to kiss any fish. Especially, of course, if it leads to sleeping with them.

To suppress panic I apply an attractive Breathe Right nasal strip to my nose (the sort sportsmen wear), and inhale lots of fresh, salty, ozoney air through new enlarged nostrils. But I am definitely reserving the right to back out at the last minute. I am still not committed to taking the fearful plunge. "I'll probably need time to think about this," I warn the crew, as I edge my lumpy body feebly down a

ladder into the water. "No problem," they say. There will be a light jump required when the rungs run out, they explain; after which I will be standing on the seabed. A helmet is lifted on to my shoulders and lifted straight off again when I squeal "Not!" and shake my head. Help, help, can't breathe, dying, help, help. "I've got a bigger helmet, try this," says the nice assistant and places another on my shoulders. I test it with a few breaths.

I EDGE down another rung, but when the water laps the glass, I step right back up again. Down. Up. Down. Everyone is patient, though the people already immersed must be bored by now, with nothing to do except breathe, stand around and scratch their noses. Another woman has simply refused to go down and I find that I love her very much. A holidaymaker more namby-pamby than me is a rare discovery.

Later I learn that the so-called "bigger helmet" was nothing of the sort. It was in reality a cunning trick to make scared people feel more se-

cure. But it worked. Reassured by the roominess of the new helmet, I finally descend the ladder, jump off the bottom rung and land on the sand four feet below. And for the next gruelling 15 minutes, while Joe routinely demonstrates the feeding of coral (boring) and shuffles us into well-worn camera positions (also boring), I fight panic, suppress squeals and pray that someone else is paying the same attention to the effect of the incoming tide — which is in danger of lifting the boat's ladder just beyond our reach.

Is it a big thing or a little thing, this helmet dive? Well, obviously, it is really very small potatoes. For me, it is momentous to be underwater and still alive. But as for Joe — a man snug in his designer wetsuit — it is quite clear that Joe leading eight people around a tiny area of seabed in shallow water is like Damon Hill driving a lot of lifelong pedestrians around a mini-roundabout in a milk float.

I smile at Joe apologetically through the glass and then stop when I realise the expression may be interpreted as "I'm about to be sick". Which is an alarming thought. I mean, what if you were sick in the helmet? With such happy

thoughts, I finally regain the ladder and clamber back on board. Only then do I realise I should have tried to enjoy the experience. Unfortunately, enjoyment did not seem an option at the time.

Travellers to Bermuda are not obliged to helmet dive.

There are lots of other activities: night life in the city of Hamilton; arts-and-crafts shopping at the old naval dockyard; glass-bottom boat trips; and incredibly expensive meals outdoors on warm starlit nights, with Atlantic breezes playing in the palms. I even saw an Alan Ayckbourn farce, performed with surreal inadequacy at one of the top hotels. But Bermuda is one of the few places where you can

go helmet diving — which makes it sort of unmissable. I cannot remember much about the coral, though I can still do "fish-lips", so it was not a complete waste.

Joe had taught us some sign-language before descent, to indicate coral asleep, coral breathing — but it all looked a bit grey and dusty down there, and the main interest was Joe's efficiency in manoeuvring us into camera positions for the all-important video. My overall sensation remained one of hysterical self-amazement.

Helmet diving is a bewilderingly bonkers thing for an aquaphobe to try.

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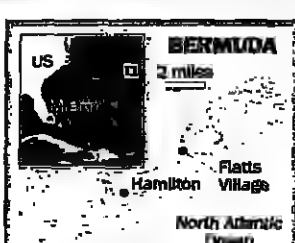


BERMUDA FACT FILE

Lynne Truss travelled with Bermuda Tourism and Prestige Holidays. She stayed at Ariel Sands, where a week's B&B starts at £122 per person in October, and £899 per person from November 1 to December 12 with Prestige (01425 480400). The price includes flights and transfers. Other operators featuring cottage holidays include Cadogan (01703 332551) and Mainstreet USA (0990 526900). British Airways (0345 221111) has three flights a week from Gatwick and has World Offers from £299 for October and £279 from November 1 to December 12.

Flights are also available via New York with American Airlines (0181-572 5555) and Continental (0800 776464); via Boston with American and with Delta (0800 414767); via Atlanta with Delta; and via Toronto with Air Canada (0990 247226).

On Bermuda, helmet diving is offered by Bermuda Bell Diving (001 441 292 4434) and Greg Hartley's Under Sea



Adventure (441 234 2861). The former charges adults \$44 (£27.50) and children \$33 (£20.50); the latter charges \$48 (£30) and \$30 (£22.50). The whole experience takes three hours, including training and a dive lasting about half an hour.

Tips: The nervous should pack Breathe Right nasal strips.

Further information: Bermuda Tourism (0171-771 7001) has a guide on where to dive and other information. Reading: *Insight Guide to Bermuda* (£12.99). The same company also has a *Pocket Guide to Bermuda* (£5.95). *Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit: Bermuda* (£8.99).

*Price per adult for an inside berth cabin cruise only.



Islands of dreams: a jetty runs from one of the 1,000 Maldives islands out onto a coral reef. Only 70 of the islands house resorts and a tourism policy restricts development

Castaway among the coral

For Elizabeth Jane Howard, the Maldives brought to life childhood fantasies of being shipwrecked, but without any of the discomforts

Our first sight of the Maldives was from the aeroplane early in the morning. More than 1,000 coral islands are strung vertically across the equator, west of Sri Lanka. In the Indian Ocean, and from above they appeared as dark marks rimmed with pale cream and encircled by a wide expanse of aquamarine water set in an inky sea.

As we descended, these colours became clearer, the centres composed of rich greens; the cream sand dazzled, and the aquamarine lagoons became translucent, a rim of lacy white delineating the reefs that separated the lagoons from the deep blue water.

Here were the coral islands that had so enraptured my childhood, looking, from the sky, exactly as I had imagined them when I had read all those books about being castaways and had so longed to be shipwrecked. Far from being wrecked, however, we were to visit two islands that contrive to make their visitors feel like pampered castaways.

Our first hotel was the Soneva Fushi on Kunfun-

adhuo, one of the larger islands well to the north of Male', the capital — reached by a 40-minute helicopter journey or three hours in a boat.

Of the more than 1,000 islands in the Maldives, only some 70 have resorts on them — and most of these are otherwise uninhabited, for a wise tourism policy started in the early 1970s has limited hotel development to preserve the environment. So on Kunfunadhuo there is only Soneva Fushi, with its 42 villas: they consist of one large double bedroom and a well-appointed bathroom, the latter looking straight into a tiny garden. The villas are set back from the beach amid palms, frangipani and in our case a noble banyan tree.

We skipped lunch and got straight into the sea. The water was like warm silk and clear as glass, and richly inhabited by thousands of different fish, as brilliant as butterflies. Castaways gathered for meals in a



From the air, the coral islands appear as lacy rims of white

large open dining room — it was also possible to eat outside. To reach it we walked along a sandy path still warm from the sun. The first evening there was a barbecue which turned out to be the most successful cooking we experienced at Soneva Fushi. Much

of the food was unremarkable, but everything had to be flown or shipped in — mostly from a distance. There was a bar near the dining room where you could drink or play chess or backgammon; you could also hire videos if you were mad enough to feel the need.

We felt that simply being in a place that was so beautiful and so different used up all our time. Sunsets were voluptuous and operatic; the juicy cries of fruitbats occurred at all hours, and little geckos came out when lamps were lit to tidy up the insects. There was the occasional mosquito, but there was all the right apparatus for keeping them at bay and we were not bitten at all, although at the cost of no reading in bed. There were no flies on the island: it took a day or two to realise how enormously this contributed to our peace and comfort.

The island had its own desalination plant and there seemed to be no shortage of water, hot or cold. There was excellent massage available, both Swedish and shiatsu. There were excursions to other islands and all kinds of watersports. We went on one outing that offered excellent snorkelling, and were joined by a cheerful gang of stingrays the size of occasional tables.

In the evenings, by the restaurant, black-and-white rabbits cavorted rather self-consciously and toyed with pieces of bread or lettuce. We were looked after — extremely well — by a host of small graceful men: Maldivian, Sri Lankan and Bangladeshi.

Our second week was on Vabbinfaaru, a much smaller island about 20 minutes from Male' by speedboat. Here was one of the Banyan Tree hotels and again the separate thatched huts containing a large bedroom and bathroom. These were set a few yards from the sea and had verandahs, with the rest of the house walled off so that everyone had a private garden.

This was a well-run hotel, and the food was much better than it had been in Soneva Fushi: although the ingredients were not very different, they were better prepared. Barbecues and breakfasts were on a par with those at Soneva Fushi, but lunch and dinner were infinitely more enjoyable. Mineral water was free — another bonus since we needed a great deal of it.

The days slipped by in a kind of timeless slow motion: often we felt that we had been on a coral island for ever — sometimes we felt that we had hardly arrived. My daughter Nicola went diving every day but otherwise we made no plans, did not want excursions, were content to become familiar with the sea bed round the island.

One area was covered with sea cucumbers, creatures that look like gigantic fat caterpillars, but if you picked one up it was as light as if it had been made of papier-mâché. Beyond them were the coral gardens where a cloud of humbug damselfish fed — beautiful little fish with vertical blue and black stripes. Every evening at six, a gang of stingrays sped in to be fed by one of the gardeners. If you stood in the water they would nudge and bump you for food. When I was a child I had a notebook in which major experiences were recorded: "wore

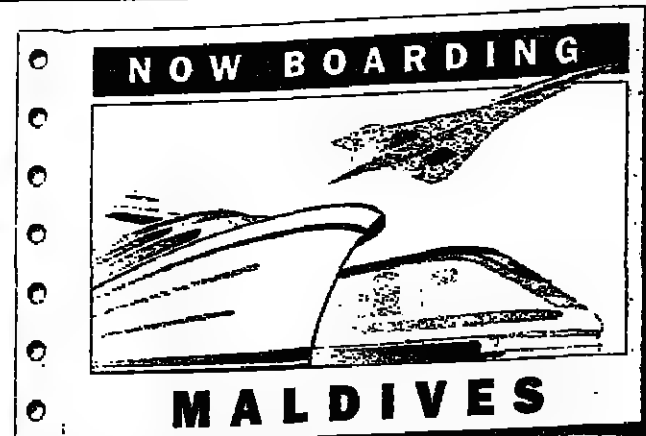
puttees", "rode an elephant" — that kind of thing. "Bumped by stingrays" would have fitted nicely into that.

But what I shall remember most, what really makes me long to return to the Indian Ocean, is the memory of sitting on the verandah simply watching the vast amazing sky; livid with sunrise, bleached to creamy blues at midday, and then lightly furnished with clouds that were become molten as the sun fell — with the speed of a batted ball — beyond the horizon, beginning a darkness from which stars started out like diamonds. Every day these things happened, but never quite the same. We did not have time to get used to that spectrum of changing light: I shall have to return.

Elizabeth Jane Howard travelled with Elegant Resorts (01244 897888), which specialises in tailor-made holidays. Seven nights at the Banyan Tree costs from £1,505 per person, full board. Seven nights at Soneva Fushi costs from £1,295 per person, B&B, including return flights from London via Dubai with Emirates, and inter-island transfers.

Emirates (0171-808 0808) offers four flights a week to Male' from Gatwick, Heathrow and Manchester, via Dubai.

Reading: Guide to Maldives by Royston Ellis (Bradt, £11.95); Maldives (Lonely Planet, £8.99).



Who goes there? People who like sitting on/diving off sand pancakes in the middle of a warm ocean. Not for gourmands/culture buffs or budget travellers.

Getting the ball rolling: Call the Maldives High Commission (0171-224 2135 — but information takes 10 days to arrive).

Perfect timing: Peak season: mid December-early April. Christmas/August: pricey. Monsoon usually June/July, but has varied of late.

Suitcase Strategy: Take: Book, film, sun/insect cream. Bring back: Retail not a strong point except in Male', the capital. Anyway, shopping is stressful, and you are there to de-stress.

Pound in your pocket: £1 = 18.54 rufiyaa. Buy at airport on arrival. Keep receipt if you want to change money back as you leave. Sterling travellers' cheques welcome but US dollars more useful. Prices generally high, but not outrageous.

Turn of phrase: Sri Lankan influence evident in unpronounceable names, such as Boduthakurufaanu Magu.

Big no-nos: Bringing in alcohol, duty free or otherwise, which will be confiscated at customs. Arriving unannounced on local — as opposed to resort — islands. Picking up coral/shells.

Nasty surprises: Bratwurst and tinned fruit salad (although standards are improving). Expensive/tricky inter-island travel. Some islands are great for diving but hopeless for snorkelling and vice versa — choose carefully.

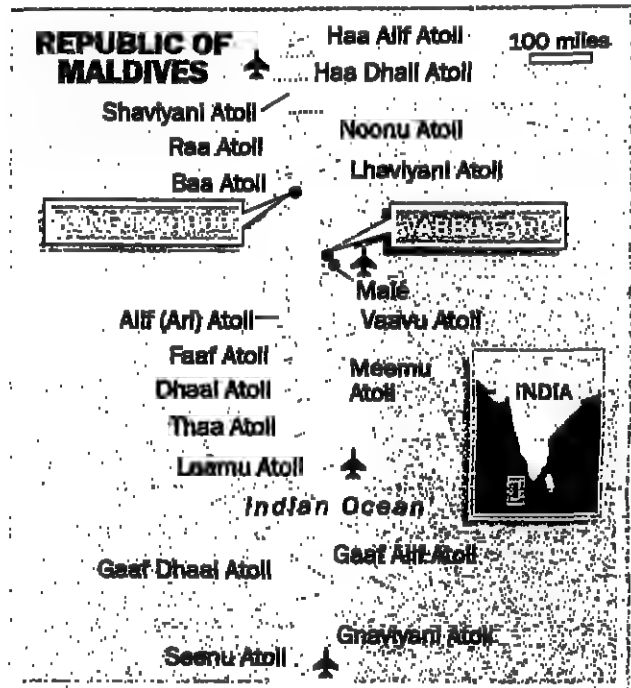
Not to be missed: Bodu Beru drumming-and-dancing nights. Fish barbecues in the sand. "Maldivian sofas" — swinging chairs with room for two.

Way to go: Only charters fly direct. November scheduled return flights: Air Lanka (0171-930 4688) via Colombo, £52 (inc UK tax). Emirates (call DNATA Travel 0500 777310) via Dubai, £610 (inc UK tax).

Any good packages? November/December deals: Elegant Resorts (01244 897888) — 14 nights B&B at the ritzy new Kuda Huraa resort (with spa and dive school), £1765pp. Hayes & Jarvis (0181-222 7811) — seven nights half board on Meerufenfushi, £499pp. Maldivian Travel (0171-352 2246) — exclusive Nika Island for £182 per room per night, plus £152 pp helicopter transfers. Also: Airtours (01706 232323), Cosmos (0161-480 5799), Kuoni (01306 734000), Thomson (0990 502399).

Dull but essential: No visa for stays of under 30 days. Departure tax \$10. No jabs required.

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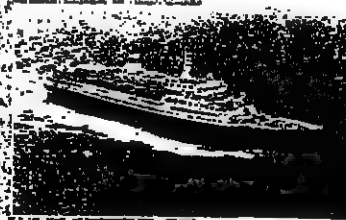
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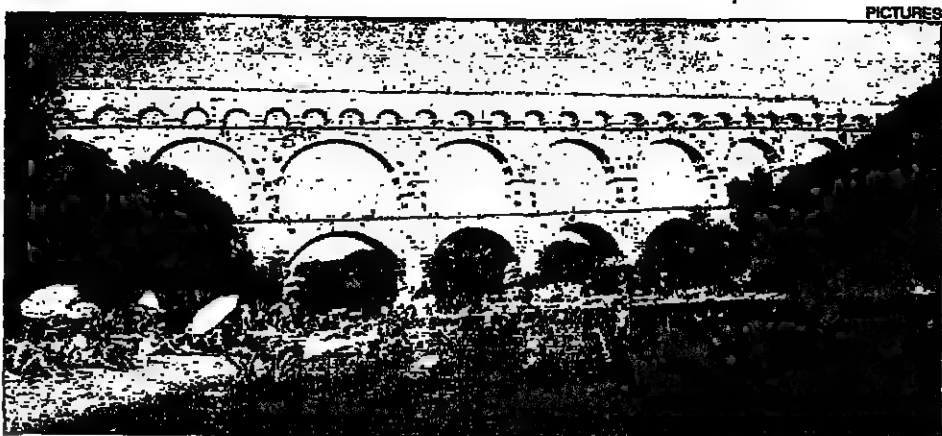
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Gareth Huw Davies steps back 2,000 years on a drive through Languedoc Roussillon, southern France

But the Romans got here first



The Pont du Gard, with its three great lines of arches, is a wonder of antiquity

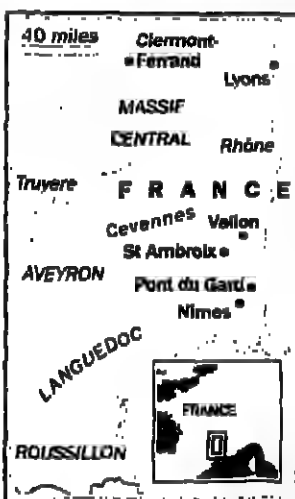
We took the high road into Languedoc Roussillon over an elbow of the Massif Central. If there must be new roads through sensational countryside, then let them soar and swoop as excitingly as this one. We were as high as Snowdon. My children, Laura, 15, and 13-year-old Tim, the back seat navigators, rattled off regular roadside altitude checks.

Too late we spotted the *aire* — that ubiquitous roadside leg-stretching site — where we should have stopped, for each parking spot was shaded by a towering stone megalith, erected by the local authorities in imitation of a nearby neolithic site.

And all the while, on a more horizontal keel, the single-track railway north to Clermont-Ferrand shadowed us. We knew where it was heading, but imagine being an uninformed passenger on that line and, ten miles north, suddenly tightening over the Truyère at Garabit on Eiffel's wondrous iron viaduct.

The French region is a huge thing. Languedoc Roussillon starts here, below the Auvergne, channels straight down central southern France, then veers to the west in a wide band rather like an inverted comma to the Spanish border. It ends up as the most southerly region, barring Corsica, and takes in half of the French Mediterranean coast.

Languedoc Roussillon may lack the instant product identification in the British mind of, say, Provence, directly to the east. But it comes fully-fitted with the same seductive sensory effects of the Midi — cicadas in surround-sound as you drive, nightingales on the fringe of country campsites and the potent perfume of southern flora.



We followed the bends for half a day down the Tarn Gorges, then cut across Robert Louis Stevenson's donkey route in the Cévennes, the southern margin of wild, elevated central France, and popped out on the other side at St Ambroix into the undeniable south. After 250 miles of wine-free France, we saw our first vineyard since the Loire.

Our gîte was at St Christol de Rodières, some 25 miles north of Avignon. From our eyrie perch we looked over grand cru vineyards across to the Rhône valley and the mistral-scoured Mt Ventoux. In ideal conditions, we were within eyeshot of the Alps.

One feature jarred — a nuclear power station shimmering on the edge of the Rhône. Our hostess made a virtue of it. "It's our barometer," she said, indicating the wind direction by the slant of its vapours.

Our hilltop was an important marker on a regular fly-past. By the poolside one afternoon I spotted, directly overhead, a flight of half a dozen bee-eaters, floppy fliers in jazzy harlequin livery, binding themselves together with a

flutey roundelay. A few hours later they straggled back, replete from whatever nutritious cache they had been visiting down in the valley.

We were within striking distance of what must be the widest range of cultural achievement in the western world, perhaps anywhere. To the south, the many points of inspiration for the impressionists and cubists. Twenty miles to the north, newly discovered marvels you will never see in the original.

Jean-Marie Chauvet and two colleagues discovered some new caves near Vallon Pont d'Arc on December 18, 1994. Their torches picked out walls decorated with a 20,000-year-old gallery of beasts, among the oldest on earth. It was instantly obvious that visitors must never be admitted after the disaster of Lascaux, where human breath destroyed the very wonders human eyes beheld.

Even now Chauvet and his team are working on an exact replica of the caves, a virtual reality solution. In the meantime, they rushed out an impressive exhibition in Vallon town, with video footage and recreated cave walls.

Even in facsimile the animal paintings are awesome. One, in particular, astonished me for its composition. A line of lions, head alongside head, are spring-loaded for action, like Olympic sprinters poised on the blocks. Orange, just east of the Rhône in western Provence, has the best preserved theatre in the whole of the Roman world. Pont du Gard, with its three great lines of arches, is a wonder of antiquity. You can follow the course of the water in surviving off-cuts of channel to Uzès, — splendid Saturday market — 15 miles to the west. And on to elegant Nîmes. "Nîmes: La Roma Française" is still a standard tourist text on the bookstands. But we found a city recasting its received persona. Not only did the whole world think of Nîmes as exclusively Roman, so did the tourist college from which our guide graduated recently. Now the image is being updated and Nîmes is promoted thus: "2,000 years of Latin culture", and even "Nîmes, French Madrid", for its *ferias* and bullfighting.

You still need a copy of *I Claudius* by Robert Graves to fix the opening acts — the amphitheatre, the finest of its sort, built in Augustus's reign; the Maison Carrée, best preserved Roman temple, dedicated to his sons Caius and Lucius, murdered by the satanic Livia.

To mark the Middle Ages link, our guide unlocked a succession of massive wooden doors leading into the courtyards of *hôtels particuliers* — merchants' mansions. Behind these doors Protestant grandees hid their ostentation. Today these beautifully composed set pieces in stone — all the classical architectural flourishes under a winding staircase — are cool havens from the heat of the street outside, with their tinkling fountains and torrents of greenery tumbling off the parapets.

The treat for the family, after so much culture, was a meal out on the last evening. We tested and disproved yet again the theory that you cannot eat out in France for less than a fortune: on the contrary, the strength of the pound now leads to some good deals. The opinion from the back of the car was that we try Le Mas de Trescouvieux, just east of Laval St Roman, as a reward for planting so many insistent signposts among the vines.

It was a farmhouse kitchen with outdoor seats and any wine you liked so long as it was red and came in an unmarked bottle from the patron's own cave. Four courses cost us £63 for five.

A day later, we were heading home on the A90 to Calais motorail. Rattling along the banks of the Rhône, we passed the same power station we had seen from our gîte, gently shimmering. Somewhere up there, among that dense greenery, our hostess was glancing down to take tomorrow's weather forecast.

Architectural wonder: Aerial view of the Roman amphitheatre at Nîmes, built in the reign of Caesar Augustus

Words cannot adequately describe what it feels like to stand on the crest of an age old glacier, see a whale gracefully breach above the sea's surface or watch a grizzly hunt for spawning salmon in the gushing Alaskan rivers. Coastal Alaska is incredibly beautiful. A vast area of fjords, channels, rivers, glaciers and bays.

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Day 10 Valdez. After a morning cruising call into the port of Valdez, a lovely spot where snow-capped peaks form a wonderful backdrop to green meadows.
Day 11 Cruising the Yakutat Bay. In

the finest botanical gardens in the world can be found here.

Day 16 Vancouver to London (Heathrow). Disembark after breakfast and transfer to Georgian Court Hotel or similar where day use rooms have been reserved. Remainder of day at leisure until transfer to the airport in time for the late evening British Airways to London.
Day 17 London (Heathrow). Arrive in the morning.

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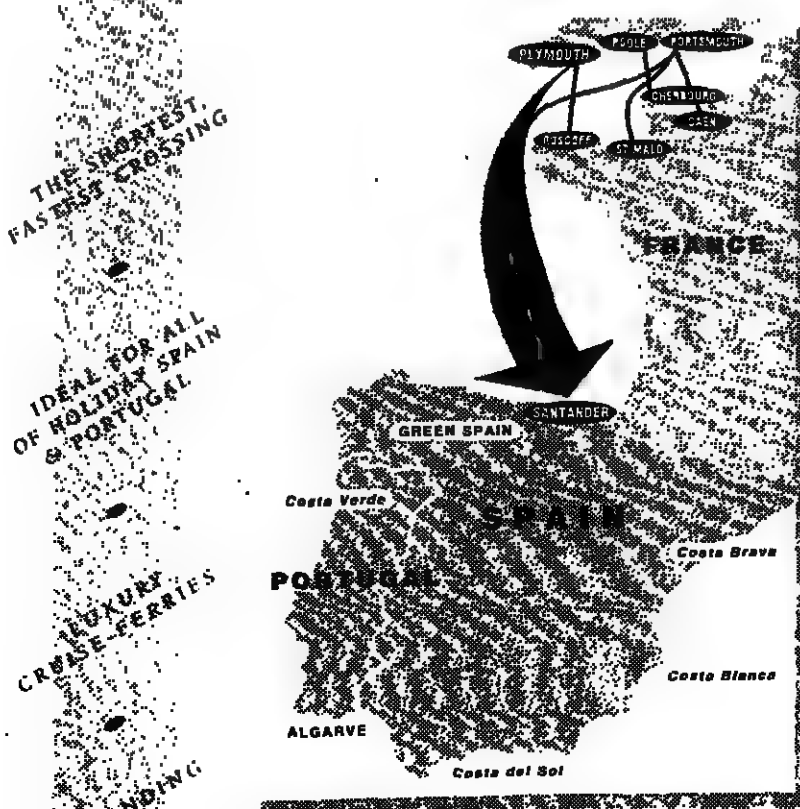
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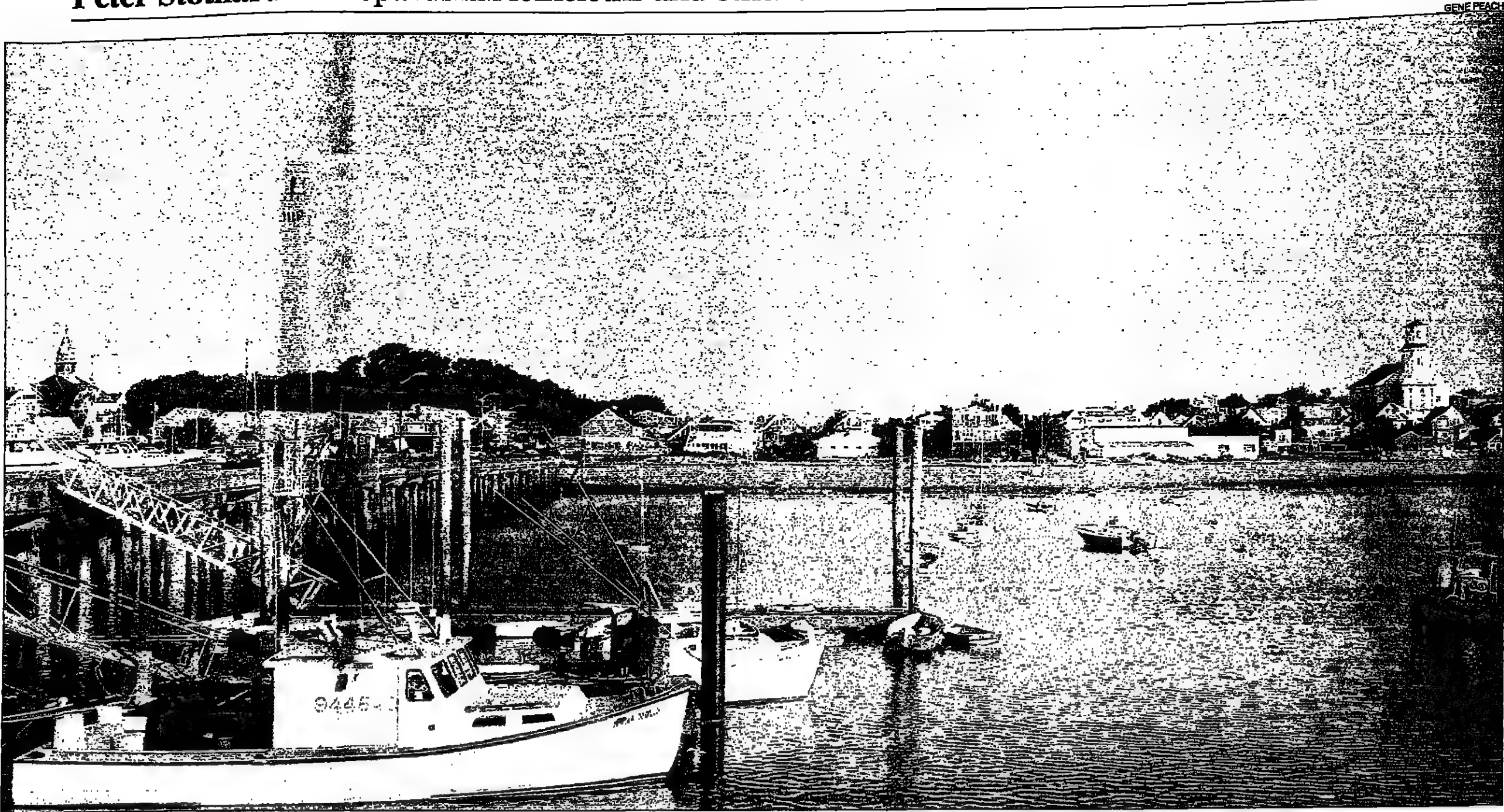
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Peter Stothard on leopardskin loincloths and other theatrical memorabilia at the tip of Cape Cod



Provincetown, at the tip of America's most fashionable Cape, has been a tourist resort since the 1920s when Eugene O'Neill wrote his early plays here. It is a magnet for artists, writers, and the wealthy gay community

Long day's journey into the bay

Eugene O'Neill had his good days and his bad days while he was making his name as the father of American theatre in Provincetown, Cape Cod. Even on a good day, when his work was going well and he was partying naked except for a leopardskin loincloth and an orange wig,

he could thrash out at over-inquisitive journalists and consign his long-suffering wife to the gutter. On a bad day his alcoholic rages were not even fit to be research work for *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, the posthumous masterpiece on which his reputation rests. He would sit on the sand-dunes, urinating into

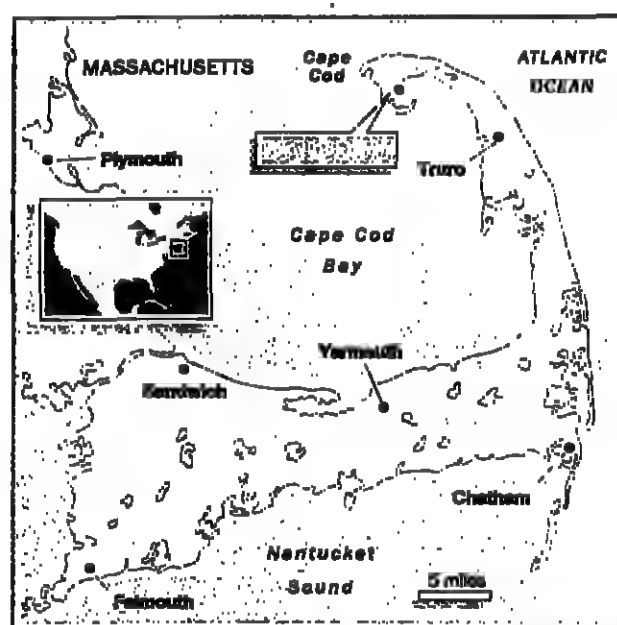
half-full prohibition-priced whisky bottles and drinking the contents as cocktails.

Provincetown today, like most people with famous sons, prefer to remember the best parts of the good days. Since the 1920s they have created a prosperous tourist resort at the tip of America's most fashionable Cape and made it a magnet for artists, writers, the wealthy local gay community as well as for Europeans seeking the place where New World drama first threw off the chains of the old.

If O'Neill were to return today to the little town where he wrote his early plays, he would find men in loincloths and wigs cavorting every night of the week. He might note with disquiet that men and women in gay-pride T-shirts have taken many of the places left by his 1920s team of wife-swappers, boodiggers and macho-bohemians. But the playwright would still find his works being performed here, in the same sort of grey clapboard wharf-buildings, before small but no-less-appreciative crowds.

The only trouble for the local hero would come if he were to try to replay some of his bad times. Provincetown today is a place where those who prize self-expression also know how to behave. Raised voices are very much not the thing. Etiquette is a street art. Manicured gardens — no more than seven convoluted blooms per drainpipe — is the grandest of arts. Dogs have to be leashed or pugs and wear at least a thousand dollars worth of ethnic jewellery.

Watercolour is the painter's medium of choice. When seven people eating a \$250 dinner order a fourth bottle of wine it is time for the manager to sound a none-too-subtle claxon. Even running in the



streets seems somehow frowned upon — unless it is athletic running. Ideally by groups in neatly-matched turquoise boxer shorts.

The theatre where O'Neill's plays were performed has long been lost to the waves of Provincetown bay. The Provincetown Players were nothing if not a farsighted and itinerant crowd: the idea of any permanent memorial would have seemed to them absurd. But the sense of theatre remains strong.

The centre of the town is built of short wharves which jut out into the sea. Some have collapsed for ever, while others have been converted into accommodation for visitors. The scenery for the plays was kept not above the stage (too precarious) or at the side (no room) but under the boards of the piers themselves, barely scraping the water surface at high tide. The



Provincetown: artists' mecca

performance areas were cramped and intimate — just like the jumbles of rooms that are now so much sought after for let. In August the "No Vacancy" signs along Commercial Street and Bradford (the two thoroughfares that mark out the town) are even more prevalent than the plover and sanderlings that play along the beaches.

Visitors to Provincetown who are searching for a more serious slice of American history may be disappointed. A hotel parking-lot on the edge of town is the site where the

Pilgrim Fathers first landed the *Mayflower* in America. What they found was a barren sandbar and they did not stay long before leaving for their first settlement at Plymouth across the bay.

Modern tourists, therefore, who want to recreate the lives of the Puritan settlers, eat olde worlde food and talk to actors in 17th century English can do so further down the Cape at the popular Plimoth Plantation, where they will find a mass of educational attractions, combining obsessive period detail with compulsory political correctness about native Americans.

In Provincetown there is a tall Mayflower Memorial, modelled earlier this century on a tower in Siena, but, in every other respect, players are preferred to Puritans. This is a self-consciously artistic community — even when its population rises from 5,000 to 50,000 in the summer. The main bookstore, which feminist pilgrims claim may once have been the home of Sylvia Plath, contains shelves of literary first editions where normally there might be horoscopes and greeting cards.

The gossip is of Norman Mailer and Susan Sontag. The restaurants have to be as competitive in their salad-arrangements as any in Manhattan. Holidaying New York painters come here — and can be just the slightest bit patronising about the local artists who sell sea-and-clapboard watercolours around the east end galleries. Even the chambermaid in your wharf is likely to be working on a reportorial novel: *From Dust To Dust, Observations from the Bed-Changing Business*.

There is still, however, a lively strain of old Englishness on this end zone of Cape Cod.

There are houses called Clovelly, Lands End and the Lizard: there are towns called Truro and Falmouth.

It looks a little like Cornwall and there is some of that Cornish sense of separateness and individuality. The life and the buildings are more precarious than in the west of England. There is no place with the solid charm of Fowey, no rock like St Michael's Mount. But the beaches and the bristling dunes of pine are

vast by comparison and criss-crossed by miles of bicycle tracks.

At the lowest of low tides almost the whole of Provincetown Bay is empty of sea and there are acres of sand and starfish stretching over to the lighthouse point, a place for expensive dogs to play baseball and their owners to build their bodies, dream of their future theatrical triumphs, or at least decide on their next fine-dining experience.

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PROVINCETOWN FACT FILE

■ Getting there: It is easiest to travel to Provincetown via Boston. Virgin Atlantic (01293 747 245) has special fares to Boston from £198, plus £35 taxes, for travel by December 12 (if booked by October 1). British Airways (0345 222111) has a World Offer price to Boston from £199 plus taxes, for travel between October 1-31. Prices then drop to £179 until December 12. To obtain these prices, tickets must be purchased by October 1. It is a two and a half hour drive from Boston to Provincetown, or you can fly with Cape Air (001 508 771 6944). Prices start at \$142 (£90) return for a seven-day advance purchase ticket.

■ Virgin Holidays (01293 617181) has fly-drive holidays to New England from £499 per person (including flights and car hire). Taxes and insurance add between £21-£25 a day.

■ Osprey Holidays (0131-557 1555) has fly-drive holidays to Boston in October from £465 per person. The company will feature Provincetown in its 1998 brochure, to be published in December.

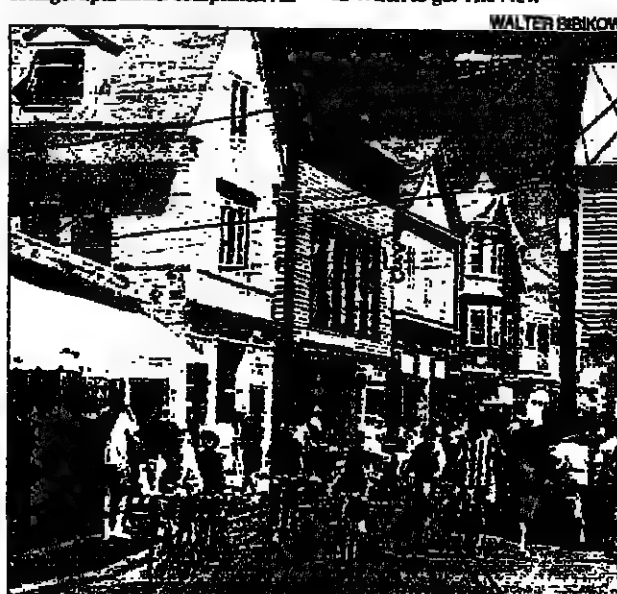
■ Where to stay: New England Country Homes (01798 869020) has properties close to

Provincetown. For example, in Truro, eight miles away, a cottage for four for two weeks until October 25 costs £1,176 per person, including flights, car hire, insurance and a night outside Boston.

Accommodation in Provincetown is divided between small hotels and cottage/apartment complexes. All

are small, and parking nearby may be difficult, so check when booking. It is advisable to book well in advance for next summer. A list of accommodation is available from the Provincetown Chamber of Commerce (Box 1017), Provincetown, MA 02657 (001 508 487 3424).

■ When to go: The New



Provincetown is built on wharves which jut into the sea

England Fall, when the leaves turn and the region is ablaze with gold and russet colours, starts around now and peaks over the next two or three weeks. Better colours can be seen the further north you go.

■ Further information: The older houses were floated to their current sites from the outer sandbank in the 19th century. Look for blue-wave plaques. Provincetown Repertory Theatre (001 508 487 0600), Provincetown Art Association (001 508 487 1750).

■ Reading: Architectural guide and other information in *Provincetown Guide* from Shunk Painter publishing, 650 Commercial St, Provincetown, MA 02657 (001 508 487 9169). *Long Day's Journey Into Night*, by Eugene O'Neill (Nick Hern Books, £6.99).

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Never mind
trainspotting,
planespotting
is best, says
Oliver Bennett

A Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 taxis out to the runway. It is a routine occurrence to most of us, at best bearing a mere frisson of fear, excitement and expectation.

But to the small crowd of aeroplane spotters who keep a vigil at the Skyview platform above Gatwick Airport's South Terminal, it is a moment of high arousal. Up leaps this fraternity of flying fanatics to their feet with their one-way radios, binoculars and cameras swinging. They rush to the balcony where they look, listen, for notes. The plane takes off in a whoosh of kerosene, and the spotters visibly relax until the next major departure or arrival.

Planespotting is an increasingly popular pastime. On the weekday morning when I visited Skyview, there were 30 or more spotters, and many more arrive at weekends.

We all know about train-spotting — the very term has become a metaphor for any pastime that requires obsessive scrutiny and attention to detail, be it record-collecting or drug abuse. Unfairly perhaps, it invites trendy scorn. But the spotting of aeroplanes — surely that is a different matter: more global and glamorous, like whale-watching as opposed to bird-watching?

Aficionados do not think so: they tend to spot both trains and planes and see no hierarchical difference between the two. And they are sensitive to criticism: several spotters I approached at Skyview refused to talk, possibly suspecting that fun was going to be poked at them. Perish the thought.

Skyview has a café, a bookshop, a few internet terminals, an historic aircraft exhibit, a flight simulator and a little cinema. This package costs £4.50 for adults, but planespotters can get roof access without the trimmings for just £1.50, and they tend to stay all day. So what drives these nomads? On a breezy, bright autumn day at Skyview, I met

Roger Wright, a market researcher from Ealing, west London, who cited childhood experience as a key factor. "I grew up in Cambridge with the planes from Marshall's airport flying over my house," he says, "and I've been fascinated ever since." But Mr Wright does not stop at planes: he is fond of "all transport systems", particularly light aircraft and steam trains. "Every plane has its own character," he insists. "They are like people in that respect." Yes, as far as spotters are concerned, planes are people too.

Planespotters often have a radio, with which they can listen to air traffic control, usually through an earpiece. "You can hear everything

that's coming," explains Mr Wright. "I've picked up one or two pilots lost in bad weather, but they seem to get here eventually." It is entirely legal, he informs me, as it is only one-way and does not interfere with signals. "Lucky" spotters can hear emergencies, though these are mercifully few. An earnest spotter also needs binoculars or telescope, a notebook and — crucially — one of the great texts, such as *Airlines*, an exhaustive list of airliner stocks published by The Aviation Hobby Shop. For it seems that planespotting is driven less by the need to celebrate the awesome power and aesthetic of aeronautic technology, and more by a clerical mission to log aeroplanes.

"There is a beauty in seeing big airplanes land and take off. Every plane has its own character."

"They are like people in that respect." Yes, as far as spotters are concerned, planes are people too.

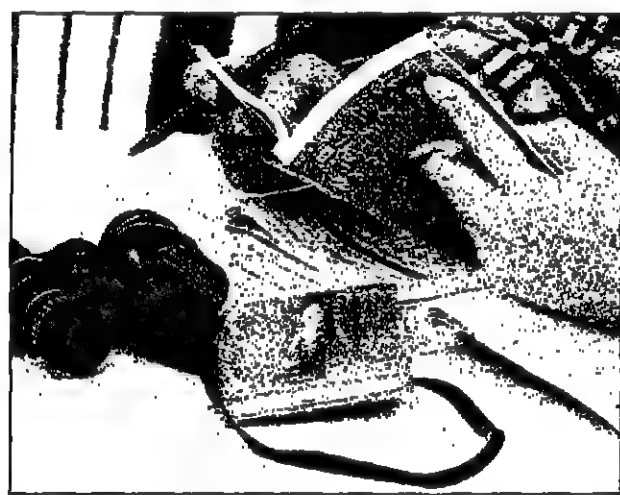
aircraft and where they go." Any unusual carrier has a planespotter reaching for his binoculars. This particular morning, Mr Wright had spied Royal Nepal Airlines, odd little airlines from Kazakhstan and Turkey, and a couple of new charters. British Airways' new livery was also exciting a gang of spotters. "We like older planes, as you won't see them much longer," says Mr Wright. "To see a Boeing 707 at Heathrow is of major interest."

Gatwick, the key charter airport, has unexpected treasures such as charters carrying footballers and orchestras: to identify these, the grapevine goes into action so spotters know what is happening when planes appear off-timetable. And new products get them going. The Boeing 777 is now boringly established, and the spotters are more excited by the Airbus 340, one of the newest in the air.

Spotters also seem to spend their days off in pursuit of planes. Wright, who claims to be able to identify helicopters by sound, lives near Heathrow and picks up on air traffic control from home. Indeed, the Wright family are looking for a new house. "When I view a property, I ask is there any aircraft traffic coming over?"



Planespotters on the Skyview balcony at Gatwick. Dedication is required. "The ultimate object is to see every passenger aircraft built, and as you can never complete this task, you will always be thwarted"



Radios, cameras and binoculars are essential kit

says Wright. "The estate agents play it down. I don't tell them that I prefer it if there are planes overhead."

Much of planespotting's appeal is down to the completist drive of the collector. "The idea is to see all the planes in a particular fleet," attests Stan Fletcher, a retired railwayman from Maidenhead, who had come to Skyview for the day with two friends. "In fact, the ultimate object is to see every passenger aircraft built, and as you can never quite complete this task, you will always be thwarted." It is precisely that sense of having an infinite task that drives the spotters.

The John Menzies shop at Skyview is dedicated to planespotting's needs, with model kits, viewing and listening equipment, as well as videos like the *Flight in Cockpit* series, which gives the viewer a pilot's eye view, and a similarly aviation-obsessed bookshelf. This includes slightly macabre titles such as *Wreckchasing*, *Black Box*, *Crashes and Crash Sites* and

Emergency — Crisis on the Flight Deck — books hardly likely to be found in the shops down in the terminal.

These do not sell quite as well as the books of lists such as *Commercial Aircraft* and *Jane's Airport Recognition Guide*, but the market seems to be thriving. "Money is no object for some of these people," says manager Simon Hussey, who says the shop is constantly "chock-a-block" with spotters who often spend over £30 on a book.

Like many of us, Hussey is baffled at the zealotry with which planespotting performs what looks awfully like unpaid catalogue work. "I said to one, what do you do with the numbers?" he recalls. "What pleasure do you get out of it? No satisfying answer came. But planespotting is a hobby that aspires to be a profession — tellingly, Fletcher refers to

his fellow spotters as "colleagues" — and many plane-spotters either work in aviation or the railways.

There is an addictive quality to it, which Mr Fletcher's friend Chris Church, a personnel manager from Maidenhead, is quick to acknowledge. "It's my fix," he says. "The people at work take the mickey out of me something rotten. But I find it relaxing, something to do." And it should be said that there is something meditative and fraternal about planespotting, despite a small internecine rivalry between telescope and binocular users, of which Mr Church and Mr Fletcher are illustrations. "I prefer telescopes," says Mr Church, standing at the balcony like a pastiche Admiral Nelson surveying his frigates. Mr Fletcher, a binocular-man: "Can't get on with them."

Most spotters are men, but

at Skyview there are a few women around. Mike and Sylvia Fulylove had travelled down from Watford, where they are fortunate enough to live beneath the West Drayton Holding Pattern. Was Sylvia there under duress? "It's a day out, and I like aeroplanes," she pleads. But planespotting is clearly Mr Fulylove's province, for it was he that held all the looking, listening and recording kit. "It bit me as a kid," says the retired print worker. "I was in the RAF and became interested in planes. It becomes a habit, but it winds you down. It's good for stress." And so, then comes the unmistakable noise of an approaching jet and there is no time to journey further into the planespotting soul. A new Canadian charter plane has been spotted, and the denizens of Skyview leap to their feet, lenses trained into the haze.

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PLANESPOTTERS' FACT FILE

■ Gatwick: The Skyview spectators gallery in the South Terminal overlooks the whole airport. A coffee shop has internet facilities, and a Herald commercial aircraft is open as an exhibit. A cinema repeatedly shows *A Day in the Life of the Airport* and there is an aircraft simulation ride (separate price: £2). Gallery admission: £1.50 adults, children 75p. All facilities, including simulator: £4.50. £3 children. A family ticket (two adults, two children) costs £10. Open daily from 9am-5pm.

■ Heathrow: The spectators gallery is on top of Terminal 2 — no lift, 70 stairs. One raised area overlooks an aircraft parking cul de sac but for Heathrow's 50th anniversary last year, another platform was opened with "a really cracking view," said a spokeswoman. Facilities are a small café — The Take-Off — and an aviation hobby shop, called Mach 3, open for three years and selling "everything you need". At weekends, during school holidays and for "special aircraft days", over 1,000 people a day can visit. An average is 300 daily. Admission free; generally open daily from dawn to dusk. The separate Visitor's Centre on Bath Road, which is also free, has a viewing area for take-offs and landings. Open daily.

■ Manchester: Due to development work, the viewing terrace has been closed indefinitely. The Aviation Viewing Park is still open, an area near the runway, off the M56 (junction 6) designated for watching take-offs and landings. Admission: £1.50 for car and driver (50p additional passenger) — £2.50 at weekends. Café, toilets and aviation shop.

■ Luton: A large spectator area with its own bar, serving meals, plus a separate snack shop. Open from 9am to 11pm daily, the gallery even has its own dedicated car park (£1), pool tables, darts and Sky TV. There is also another branch of Mach 3, the Heathrow aviation hobby shop. Admission free.

■ Edinburgh: The spectators gallery is closed due to redevelopment of the terminal. Is due to re-open "at some stage" — possibly within a year.

■ Reading: Mach 3 (0181-897 2747) publishes *World Airline Registrations* (£7.95), available from its Heathrow viewing shop. The Aviation Hobby Shop (01895 442123) publishes *Airlines* (£8.95).

Oliver Bennett goes skywatching

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Living in the past with a house of spirits

Francis Gilbert picks up a new guide to London's lesser-known museums and finds some of the most atmospheric houses

DENNIS SEVERS HOUSE

I discovered Dennis Severs House one Sunday in midsummer. I tramped off the cobbled street, the trains from Liverpool Street Station rattling in the distance, and found myself tiptoeing into a mystical, cool domain.

A servant girl can be heard working upstairs, someone on horseback clip-clops nearby, the delicious aroma of roast lamb and mint sauce wafts from the kitchen downstairs, and the wispy smoke from tallow candles lures you into the front room.

As you stare in astonishment at the rock sugar candy, Severs creeps up and explains the overturned clay pipe, overflowing fruit bowl and powdered wig on the varnished table: "You are now in the home of the Jervises, a family of master silk weavers of Huguenot descent. Can you feel their spirits?"

It is the beginning of an astonishing tour of a Georgian household. You are taken down to the dimly-lit kitchen where Severs tells you of the ambitious Mrs Jervis, who desperately wants her daughter to marry well.

Upstairs, one of the rooms is a perfect recreation of one painting from Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress*, with its overturned chairs, long clay pipes, empty punch bowl and drained glasses of wine on the table. A reproduction of the



An elaborate door knocker

painting hangs over the mantelpiece, mirroring the room. My favourite space is the top floor. Whereas the rest of the house is opulent, here the rooms are poverty-stricken: cobwebs, sagging walls, chairs caked in wax.

Severs explains that it is where the servants used to live, condemned to weave the silk garments through the day and night in sweat-shop conditions for their masters down below. The Huguenots employed slave labour to fund their lavish lifestyle.

"You are like Scrooge when you travel through this house: spirits visit you and often you will undergo some kind of rebirth," said Severs.

A word of warning, though.



Dennis Severs has lived in Georgian style for 17 years. "You are now in the home of the Jervises, a family of master silk weavers of Huguenot descent. Can you feel their spirits?"

If you are looking for authenticity, you will not find it at Dennis Severs House. He has created a past culled from black and white movies, sepia photographs, Victorian literature, and his own unique reading of East End history.

Practically nothing in the house is antique — but the life he lives there is genuine — the urine in the chamber pots is not left there for effect.

Severs, an American, has lived here for 17 years. "It's my passion," he said. "I grew up

in California, where everyone buys happiness. But this is modern art — it's almost spiritual."

● Dennis Severs House, 18 Folgate Street, Spitalfields, London E1 (0171-247 4013). Open on the first Sunday and Monday of each

month. Sunday 2pm-5pm (£7); Monday after dark for the Silent Night tour (£10), booking essential. Tube: Liverpool Street.

● All three museums are featured in *Little-Known Museums In and Around London*, by Rachel Kaplan, published on Monday by Abrams at £13.95.

THE GEFTRYE MUSEUM

Christmas time. A weary traveller, grateful to escape the brutalist architecture and cacophony of the Kingsland Road in East London, stumbles upon a hidden Eden. A bewigged statue of an imposing nobleman, his shoulders garlanded with snow, gazes on a large, peaceful garden with wrought iron gates. I am thrust back into the 18th century.

Robert Geffrye, twice created Master of the Worshipful Company of Ironmongers, and a Lord Mayor of London, is ensconced in a niche which is part of the 14 terraced almshouses and a chapel which he built in 1715. The austere, beautiful buildings served as retirement homes for pensioners and widows for almost 200 years until the early 20th century, when the Arts and Crafts Movement saved them from demolition and set up the Geffrye Museum in 1914.

There is something very welcoming about the Geffrye. Admission is free and the

attendants are relaxed and friendly. In summer you can sit in the herb garden, and you can relax in the café or reading room all year round.

It is the only museum in Britain to specialise in the history of domestic interiors, displaying a collection of English furniture and decorative arts in a series of period rooms from 1600 to 1950. That winter's afternoon I was lured into a magical evocation of Christmas Past: the rooms sparkled with festive decoration. As I immersed myself in the customs, rituals and adornments once common in English homes, 400 years of Christmas traditions came to life.

The first port of call is an Elizabethan drawing room, all heavy oak and rough woollen textiles; a creepy rocking cradle with an eye carved on its hood to ward off evil spirits suggests visions of a malign and gothic world. The Stuart Period room contains the most valuable item in the museum: an extraordinary ebony cabinet inlaid with exotic woods and ivory. The Queen Anne room shows an increasing desire for luxury and Eastern motifs with furniture japanned to imitate oriental lacquer. The Regency room is

the staff's favourite. It is elegant, airy and spacious, beautifully decorated with blue and white stencilled wallpaper, white marble fireplace, carved beech and satin wood harp, a zebra-wood brass-inlaid card table and ornate silver tea set. Schoolchildren love the Victorian room, with its knick-knacks, brightly coloured curtains, Davenport writing desk, glass-domed shell ornaments, sewing box and elaborate flowers.

Christine Lalumia, the museum's deputy director, says that a number of older visitors become emotional about the 1930-40 room. The Blitz is poignantly evoked with crackling wartime songs on the Bakelite radio. A game of "Sorry" is spread out in front of chunky upholstered chairs. A biscuit tin is about the only luxury you will find here.

● Geffrye Museum, Kingsland Road, London E2 (0171-730 9893). Open Tuesday to Saturday 10am-5pm; Sundays and Bank Holidays 2pm-5pm. Underground: Liverpool Street Station, then Bus 22A, 22B or 149 from Bishopsgate. Best times to visit: weekday afternoons. Worst times: weekday mornings (when school parties are visiting) and Sunday afternoon. Admission free.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 30

LOKI

(c) Loki was the bad boy of the Norse Gods. He saved them from paying the builder of the wall around Asgard. He turned himself into a mare and so excited the builder's horse, Svadilfare, that the work was not completed on time.

RUNOUT

(e) The recovery from recoil. In automatic weapons such as the Bofors, this was used to actuate the mechanism of loading and firing the next round.

CONIC SECTIONS

(a) Conic sections are the figures obtained by plane sections of a double right-circular cone. Depending on the angle, the sections are (1) a pair of straight lines; (2) a circle; (3) an ellipse; (4) a parabola; and (5) a hyperbola.

HIPPOCAMPUS

(c) Seahorses swim, unlike most fish, by passing waves along the dorsal fins.

THE DICKENS MUSEUM

American tourists searching for the inside story on Scrooge and *A Christmas Carol* often wend their way to the Dickens House Museum in Bloomsbury, according to Andrew Xavier, the Deputy Curator. They may leave somewhat disappointed because, unlike Dennis Severs House, the museum does not offer a fantasy vision of the past. It is a serious and scholarly museum containing many original facsimiles, first editions, prints, paintings and Dickens memorabilia.

Dickens moved into this fine Regency home at 48 Doughty Street in April 1837, aged 25. He had just married and was establishing himself as a writer. He finished *Pickwick Papers*, and wrote *Nicholas Nickleby* and *Oliver Twist* in the house. Documenting these early years was not easy because most of the original material from Dickens's life comes from when he was much older, but the museum has succeeded.

This museum is worth several visits. Recently I found myself reading the handwritten manuscript for *Nicholas Nickleby*, and a letter written by Mary Hogarth, his sister-in-law, who died at the age of 17 — a death which greatly affected Dickens. The great man's quill pen, his reading glass, his desk, and the ghostly grille from Marshalsea prison where his father was imprisoned for debt are all in the house.

Due to a lack of resources only the dining room truly resembles the house as it



Dickens: vital presence

would have looked in Dickens's time. But with its rosewood furniture and large table, it is peculiarly ordinary — a reminder that for all his wild imagination, Dickens hankered after middle-class respectability.

Most visitors are entranced with R.W. Buss's painting *Dickens's Dream*, where many characters from his novels are depicted.

The Deputy Curator's favourite exhibits are two recently acquired portraits of young Charles and his wife by Samuel Laurence which seem to bring his vital presence into the room.

● Dickens House Museum, 48 Doughty Street, London WC1N (0171-405 2127). Open Monday to Saturday 10am-5pm. Tube: Russell Square, Farringdon or Holborn. Best times to visit: weekday mornings. Admission (£3.50) adults, £2.50 students, £1.50 children.

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JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

Best baroque in Budapest

BUDAPEST is rivaling Prague, the Czech capital, as the best-selling Central European short-break destination, according to travel companies.

Prague probably wins on its architectural merits and slightly lower prices, but Budapest can offer the contrast of the baroque delights of the lofty Buda, with the Art Nouveau treasures of the lowlier Pest on the other bank of the river. The Danube is a priceless tourist asset, and for anyone who can master a menu in the tortuous Finno-Ugric tongue, the Magyar cuisine of duck and goosefat, sausages, pork, cream and wine has to be an improvement over the beer-and-dumpling-inspired Czech diet.

The one thing that the cities have in common is rapacious taxi drivers who are happy to take unwary visitors for a ride. If you want to avoid them, get a hotel to call a cab for you from a licensed firm.

Travellers (0181-427 4445) offers two nights' B&B in a three-star hotel in Budapest for £267. Crystal (0181-241 5040) can do the five-star Grand Hotel Corvina Kempinski for £329, while Danube Travel (0171-403 0263) offers rooms in a pension from £247. All prices are for two nights' B&B per person, and include flights.

Treasure island

A "NEW" island is about to appear on the tourist map of the Seychelles archipelago. It is the tiny Frigate, 40 miles off Mahé, named by a French seaman in 1744 after the frigate birds nesting on the island's reefs. Even today the human inhabitants are greatly outnumbered by the wildlife, which includes 50 species of bird, including the indigenous magpie robin, as well as geckos, marine turtles and giant tortoises.

However, to the dismay of the American hotel company AGC Management, which is constructing a luxury resort, a number of rats joined the island's wildlife brigade last year. They were believed to have swum ashore from passing ships, no doubt liking what they saw of the island's top-rated beaches and lush vegetation. A special team from New

Zealand was flown in to deal with the rat problem, which I am assured has now been solved, and the Frigate Island Private development is due to open this December. Its 16 luxury villas, sleeping two to four people, do not come cheap at \$1,200-\$1,500 (£775-£970) per day, but there is always the chance of finding the buried treasure that Ian Fleming, the creator of James Bond, believed pirates left behind.

Parades and all that jazz

THERE will be trumpeting in the streets of Cork between October 24 and 27, at what the biggest jazz party in the world, with open-air jazz parades, outdoor sessions in the city centre and a jazz trail where visitors can stroll free of charge the 40 venues. The Benny Green Trio, Val Wiseman, the Drumming Man and King Pleasure and the Biscuit Boys are some of the musicians taking part.

Cresta Holidays (0161-926 9990) offers hotels in and around Cork, travelling either by sea or air. Three nights' B&B at the three-star Arbutus Lodge Hotel costs £155 per person, inclusive of the sea crossing between Holyhead and Dublin Bay for car and passengers, or £218 by air from Gatwick.



In search of a colourful past: the Sofitel Metropole Hanoi

MORE than 600 concerts, exhibitions and other events will be taking place in Stockholm next year, when the Swedish capital takes over from Thessaloniki in Greece as the Cultural Capital of Europe. Architects will sculpt figures from ice and snow in Kungsträdgården Park and Strandvägen during the winter months. Björn Ulvæus and Benny Andersson, former Abba members, will premiere their musical Kristina från Duvemåla on February 14 at the new Cirkus auditorium. In the autumn, the Under Exposed exhibition featuring leading photographers such as Helmut Newton, Irvin Penn, Sally Mann and Josef Koudelka will be displayed in Stockholm's underground, already dubbed the world's longest art gallery because of its imaginative decoration by contemporary artists. Further information on 0171-724 5868, or the 24-hour brochure line (01476 578811).

Hanoi history

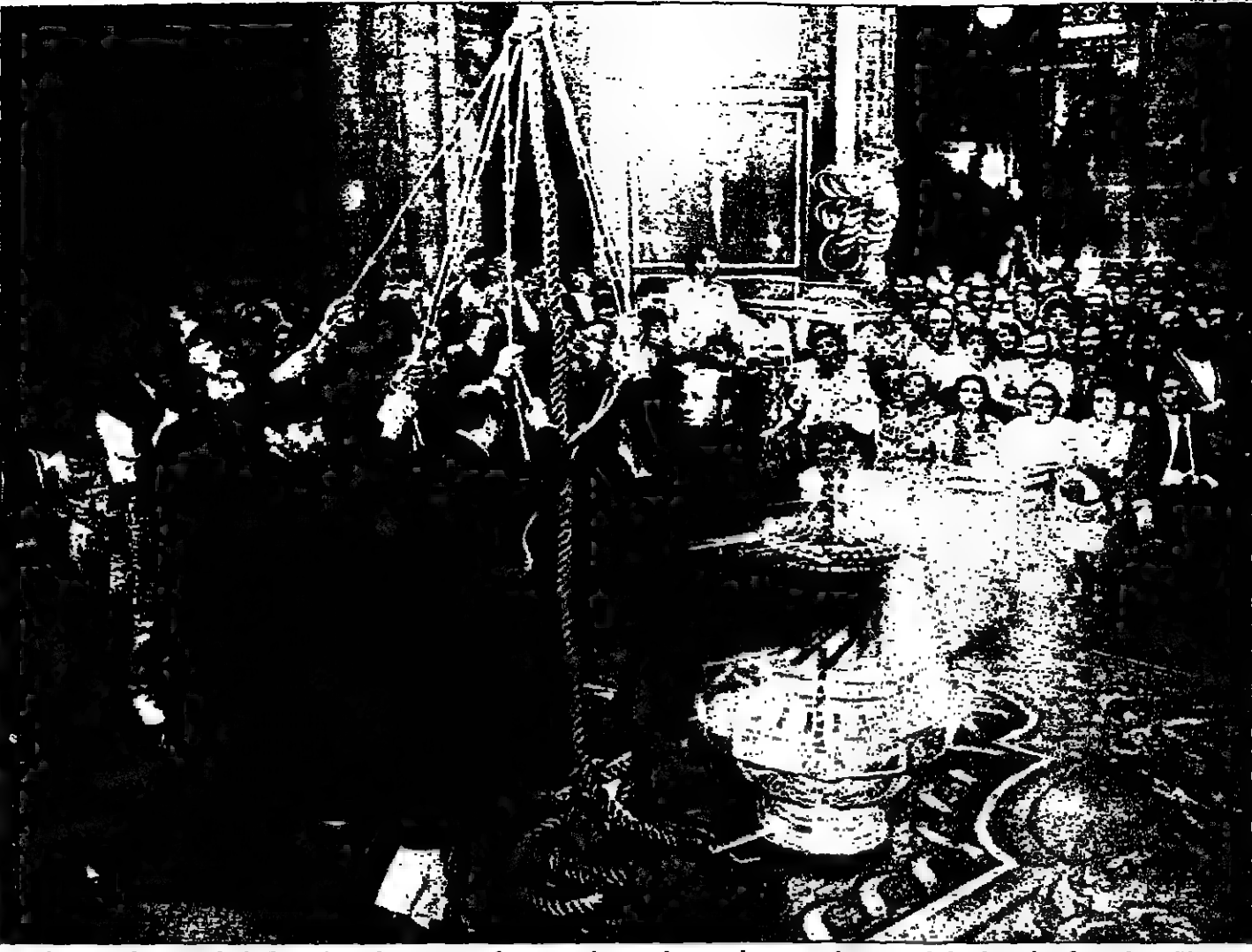
THE Hotel Metropole in Hanoi, below left, built in the Vietnamese capital in 1911, has played host to the famous and the infamous over the years. Guests have included Graham Greene, Robert De Niro, Gérard Philipe, George and Barbara Bush, Jacques Chirac and Catherine Deneuve. Now it is hoping to fill the gaps in its history with old postcards, stolen spoons and ashtrays, old menus and bills, or any other memorabilia that would help chronicle its legendary past. Run by the French until 1954, the Metropole lost much of its splendour during the war, was closed in 1990 and reopened after restoration in 1992. Now known as the Sofitel Metropole Hanoi, its rooms cost £143 single, £161 for a double, per night. To offer help in the historical search, call Sofitel on 0181-754 8788; for reservations call 0181-283 4570.

Though not using the Metropole Hotel, a new range of eight tours throughout Vietnam is available from Guerbo Expeditions (01373 826611). A 15-day Overland Adventure including Hanoi costs £660 per person B&B, excluding flights.

Families first

THOMSON Holidays (0990 143503) says its Superfamily programme for 1998 will give

families everything they have asked for, including pre-bookable aircraft seats (at £5 per adult), interconnecting hotel rooms for parents and children, and Superfamily hotels that are the first stop on the airport transfer bus route. Baby equipment is provided: free cots and highchairs, bottle equipment is £10 per holiday, and playpens and strollers are £15 each to hire. Among the 21 child-friendly resorts are the purpose-built Ixia in Rhodes and Protaras in Cyprus. Prices start at £229 per adult, £69 for the first child under 12, £138 for the second child for a week's half-board at the Hotel Taurus Park on the Costa Brava's Pineda in May. Peak prices rise to £325, £209 and £278 respectively.



Clergy in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela return the vast incense burner to its normal site, hanging from the ceiling

Pilgrims' progress

VISITS to two of Europe's oldest and finest hotels are included in the eight-day Camino de Santiago coach tour next year from Magic of Spain (0990 462442). It follows the ancient pilgrims' route through northern Spain to the resting place of St James in Santiago de Compostela. The Hotel San Marcos at León was a 12th-century pilgrim's lodge, while the Hotel de Los Reyes Católicos was founded almost 500 years ago by King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella as a hospital for sick and weary pilgrims. Converted to a parador in 1954, the hotel retains its original cloisters and Gothic patios.

PARTICIPANTS on the tour will not receive the official "compostela", the certificate that proves they have completed the pilgrimage — for which they would have to arrive on foot, horseback or bicycle. However, they will visit the medieval and Gothic highlights of Europe's oldest tourist route in Santo Domingo, Burgos, Astorga and Ponferrada, all leading to the magnificent Romanesque cathedral.

There are two days at the end of the tour to explore the cathedral and Santiago itself. Take your umbrella — Santiago is known as a medieval aquarium and even, less politely, as the chamberpot of Spain. The tour costs between £799-£1,049, depending on the time of year, which includes flights and coach travel, half-board accommodation and entrance fees.

CAMPUS Travel has launched its own free Rough Guide to Travel.

distributed at universities and colleges or available from 0171-730 8111. It gives details of fares, student passes and working holidays. For example: Euroline bus pass covers 17 cities for £159; Eurotrain Explorer tickets allow travel between London, Amsterdam, Brussels and Bruges for £71; the Mercosur Airpass covers Brazil, Argentina and Uruguay for £225 (£145). The International Student Identity Card (ISIC) offers more than 17,000 discounts on flights, car hire, YHA accommodation — as well as a 12-week subscription to The Times and The Sunday Times for £12. The card costs £5 from student travel offices or ISIC (01457 890900).

How to avoid being hijacked

The latest Travellers Handbook offers a wealth of hints for the adventurous traveller

If there is one volume that travel writers and editors turn to more than any other, it is the *Travellers Handbook*. On Monday (September 29), Wexley publishes the latest edition of this reference guide, containing nearly 1,000 pages of information on everything from understanding airline ticket taxes to surviving a hijack.

Introduced by Michael Palin, the guide has contributions from some of the country's best travel writers — Nicholas Crane discusses travelling by bicycle, Benedict Allen describes travels with his video diary, and there are sections on "The Concerned Traveller" by Professor David Bellamy, "The Polar Traveller" by Rannulph Fiennes and "Travels with my Camera Crew" by Clive Anderson.

The guide includes detailed sections on capitals, language, currency, religion, population, visa and inoculation requirements, airlines and food.

I tested the handbook in response to a friend's query about travelling to Georgia. The book performed well, giving, as well as the basics, details of currency restrictions, public holidays, a hospital address and telephone number, and realistic information about telecommunications in the UK: "IDD in theory available, in practice almost impossible." However, it did not advise having any inoculations before travelling to Georgia, whereas the Medical Advisory Services for Travellers Abroad suggests taking precautions against hepatitis A and typhoid.

Despite a surely superfluous section on "Choosing Travelling Companions", which advises you to visit the pub together before venturing to more exotic locations, *The Travellers Handbook* is unapologetic and direct. It lacks local flavour but this



The handbook tells you how to get on with the locals

avoids the disappointment of a recommended restaurant falling below expectations. It is no replacement, however, for a regional guide book.

● *The Travellers Handbook* (Wexley, £14.99).

A FURTHER essential guide for the discerning independent traveller is published this week. *Unquenchable* in its search for value for money and justifiably proud of its independent status, *The Independent Hotel Guide 1998* claims to offer a wait-and-see consumer report on some 1,000 hotels in England, Scotland and Wales.

The guide is rewritten each year and attempts to respond directly to customers' complaints: the 1998 guide pin-

points hidden charges, and offers advice on how to assert your rights.

Recommended hostels range from three-bedrooms B&B in Inverness to The Hempel in Bayswater, each of them described in remarkable detail. As British tourist authorities have failed to produce a national system for grading hotels, the *Which?* guide is introducing its own categories, including Independent, Bedrooms, Brilliant Breakfasts, Island Hideaways, Budget Options and that old British favourite, Quirky Character.

JOANNA HUNTER

● *The Which? Hotel Guide 1998*, Penguin £14.99.

Don't forget to pack a mask

THE BEST advice for anyone planning an imminent trip to Malaysia, Indonesia or Singapore is to pack a smog mask. The region has become enveloped in a thick cloud of pollution known as "the haze", a result of forest fires burning in Indonesia.

Frustratingly for travellers, confusion surrounds the extent of the problem. The haze appears to be most thick in the east Malaysian state of Sarawak, and Sumatra in western Indonesia, both of which are slightly off the main tourist trail, although popular with independent travellers.

But the stifling smog is affecting a vast swathe of south-east Asia, including Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. In particular, residents of the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore are reporting high pollution levels and breathing problems.

TRAVEL companies in Britain say they have had few cancellations, but many worried holidaymakers have been phoning for advice. A spokeswoman for travel agent Trailfinders said: "We have had a number of calls. Clients who are travelling immediately are postponing their trip or swapping destinations."

Operators to the region seem prepared to be generous. Spokesmen for The Imaginative Traveller, British Airways Holidays, and Kuoni, said clients due to go to the region were being offered the option of postponing their trip, or choosing a different destination, without penalty. Regional airlines including Singapore Airlines, Cathay Pacific, Qantas, and Malaysian Airlines, all say flights are operating as normal.

Anyone concerned about the haze should contact their tour operator before cancelling. Those with breathing problems should be wary of visiting the region, the Foreign Office says. And everyone should pack that smog mask.

CANARIES & MADEIRA

MADEIRA: 10 days/9 nights, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class, 4th class, 5th class, 6th class, 7th class, 8th class, 9th class, 10th class, 11th class, 12th class, 13th class, 14th class, 15th class, 16th class, 17th class, 18th class, 19th class, 20th class, 21st class, 22nd class, 23rd class, 24th class, 25th class, 26th class, 27th class, 28th class, 29th class, 30th class, 31st class, 32nd class, 33rd class, 34th class, 35th class, 36th class, 37th class, 38th class, 39th class, 40th class, 41st class, 42nd class, 43rd class, 44th class, 45th class, 46th class, 47th class, 48th class, 49th class, 50th class, 51st class, 52nd class, 53rd class, 54th class, 55th class, 56th class, 57th class, 58th class, 59th class, 60th class, 61st class, 62nd class, 63rd class, 64th class, 65th class, 66th class, 67th class, 68th class, 69th class, 70th class, 71st class, 72nd class, 73rd class, 74th class, 75th class, 76th class, 77th class, 78th class, 79th class, 80th class, 81st class, 82nd class, 83rd class, 84th class, 85th class, 86th class, 87th class, 88th class, 89th class, 90th class, 91st class, 92nd class, 93rd class, 94th class, 95th class, 96th class, 97th class, 98th class, 99th class, 100th class.

AFRICA

CAPE TOWN: 10 days/9 nights, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class, 4th class, 5th class, 6th class, 7th class, 8th class, 9th class, 10th class, 11th class, 12th class, 13th class, 14th class, 15th class, 16th class, 17th class, 18th class, 19th class, 20th class, 21st class, 22nd class, 23rd class, 24th class, 25th class, 26th class, 27th class, 28th class, 29th class, 30th class, 31st class, 32nd class, 33rd class, 34th class, 35th class, 36th class, 37th class, 38th class, 39th class, 40th class, 41st class, 42nd class, 43rd class, 44th class, 45th class, 46th class, 47th class, 48th class, 49th class, 50th class, 51st class, 52nd class, 53rd class, 54th class, 55th class, 56th class, 57th class, 58th class, 59th class, 60th class, 61st class, 62nd class, 63rd class, 64th class, 65th class, 66th class, 67th class, 68th class, 69th class, 70th class, 71st class, 72nd class, 73rd class, 74th class, 75th class, 76th class, 77th class, 78th class, 79th class, 80th class, 81st class, 82nd class, 83rd class, 84th class, 85th class, 86th class, 87th class, 88th class, 89th class, 90th class, 91st class, 92nd class, 93rd class, 94th class, 95th class, 96th class, 97th class, 98th class, 99th class, 100th class.

BALEARICS

MALLORCA: 10 days/9 nights, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class, 4th class, 5th class, 6th class, 7th class, 8th class, 9th class, 10th class, 11th class, 12th class, 13th class, 14th class, 15th class, 16th class, 17th class, 18th class, 19th class, 20th class, 21st class, 22nd class, 23rd class, 24th class, 25th class, 26th class, 27th class, 28th class, 29th class, 30th class, 31st class, 32nd class, 33rd class, 34th class, 35th class, 36th class, 37th class, 38th class, 39th class, 40th class, 41st class, 42nd class, 43rd class, 44th class, 45th class, 46th class, 47th class, 48th class, 49th class, 50th class, 51st class, 52nd class, 53rd class, 54th class, 55th class, 56th class, 57th class, 58th class, 59th class, 60th class, 61st class, 62nd class, 63rd class, 64th class, 65th class, 66th class, 67th class, 68th class, 69th class, 70th class, 71st class, 72nd class, 73rd class, 74th class, 75th class, 76th class, 77th class, 78th class, 79th class, 80th class, 81st class, 82nd class, 83rd class, 84th class, 85th class, 86th class, 87th class, 88th class, 89th class, 90th class, 91st class, 92nd class, 93rd class, 94th class, 95th class, 96th class, 97th class, 98th class, 99th class, 100th class.

CARIBBEAN

COCKBURN TOWN: 10 days/9 nights, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class, 4th class, 5th class, 6th class, 7th class, 8th class, 9th class, 10th class, 11th class, 12th class, 13th class, 14th class, 15th class, 16th class, 17th class, 18th class, 19th class, 20th class, 21st class, 22nd class, 23rd class, 24th class, 25th class, 26th class, 27th class, 28th class, 29th class, 30th class, 31st class, 32nd class, 33rd class, 34th class, 35th class, 36th class, 37th class, 38th class, 39th class, 40th class, 41st class, 42nd class, 43rd class, 44th class, 45th class, 46th class, 47th class, 48th class, 49th class, 50th class, 51st class, 52nd class, 53rd class, 54th class, 55th class, 56th class, 57th class, 58th class, 59th class, 60th class, 61st class, 62nd class, 63rd class, 64th class, 65th class, 66th class, 67th class, 68th class, 69th class, 70th class, 71st class, 72nd class, 73rd class, 74th class, 75th class, 76th class, 77th class, 78th class, 79th class, 80th class, 81st class, 82nd class, 83rd class, 84th class, 85th class, 86th class, 87th class, 88th class, 89th class, 90th class, 91st class, 92nd class, 93rd class, 94th class, 95th class, 96th class, 97th class, 98th class, 99th class, 100th class.

FRANCE

PARIS: 10 days/9 nights, 1st class, 2nd class, 3rd class, 4th class, 5th class, 6th class, 7th class, 8th class, 9th class, 10th class, 11th class, 12th class, 13th class, 14th class, 15th class, 16th class, 17th class, 18th class, 19th class, 20th class, 21st class, 22nd class, 23rd class, 24th class, 25th class, 26th class, 27th class, 28th class, 29th class, 30th class, 31st class, 32nd class, 33rd class, 34th class, 35th class, 36th class, 37th class, 38th class, 39th class, 40th class, 41st class, 42nd class, 43rd class, 44th class, 45th class, 46th class, 47th class, 48th class, 49th class, 50th class, 51st class, 52nd class, 53rd class, 54th class, 55th class, 56th class, 57th class, 58th class, 59th class, 60th class, 61st class, 62nd class, 63rd class, 64th class, 65th class, 66th class, 67th class, 68th class, 69th class, 70th class, 71st class, 72nd class, 73rd class, 74th class, 75th class, 76th class, 77th class, 78th class, 79th class, 80th class, 81st class, 82nd class, 83rd class, 84th class, 85th class, 86th class, 87th class, 88th class, 89th class, 90th class, 91st class, 92nd class, 93rd class, 94th class, 95th class, 96th class, 97th class, 98th class, 99th class, 100th class.

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Where Harry met Owain

In Worcestershire, David Blundell walks where an English king faced a warring Welsh chieftain

The two things Worcestershire has in abundance are countryside and history. And Abberley is an ideal centre for exploring both on foot. For an easy afternoon's circular walk, drive to the village of Great Witely and set off from the car park near the school. Walk back up the main road, turning right just past the Hundred House Hotel, and follow the footpath up the slope of Abberley Hill.

At the top of Abberley Hill, pick up the Worcestershire Way (signposted with a pear motif). There are fine views of the Woodbury Hill, with the Malverns in the background and, in the distance, Bredon Hill.

The Abberley Hills command the surrounding countryside and it was on their crest that in 1405 Henry IV posted his army. Facing him, on Witely Hill, was Owain Glyndwr, with 10,000 Welshmen, supported by a force of 12,000 French. After eight days the two sides settled for a draw, and Glyndwr withdrew into his Welsh fastness with his French backers.

Looking back towards Witely, you will see the ruins of Witely Court, one-time home of the Earl of Dudley. The house, abandoned in 1937 after a fire, was in its day one of the great houses of England. Queen Adelaide lived there in the mid-19th century, and it later became the epitome of Edwardian excess: at Christmas, it was the custom to hang

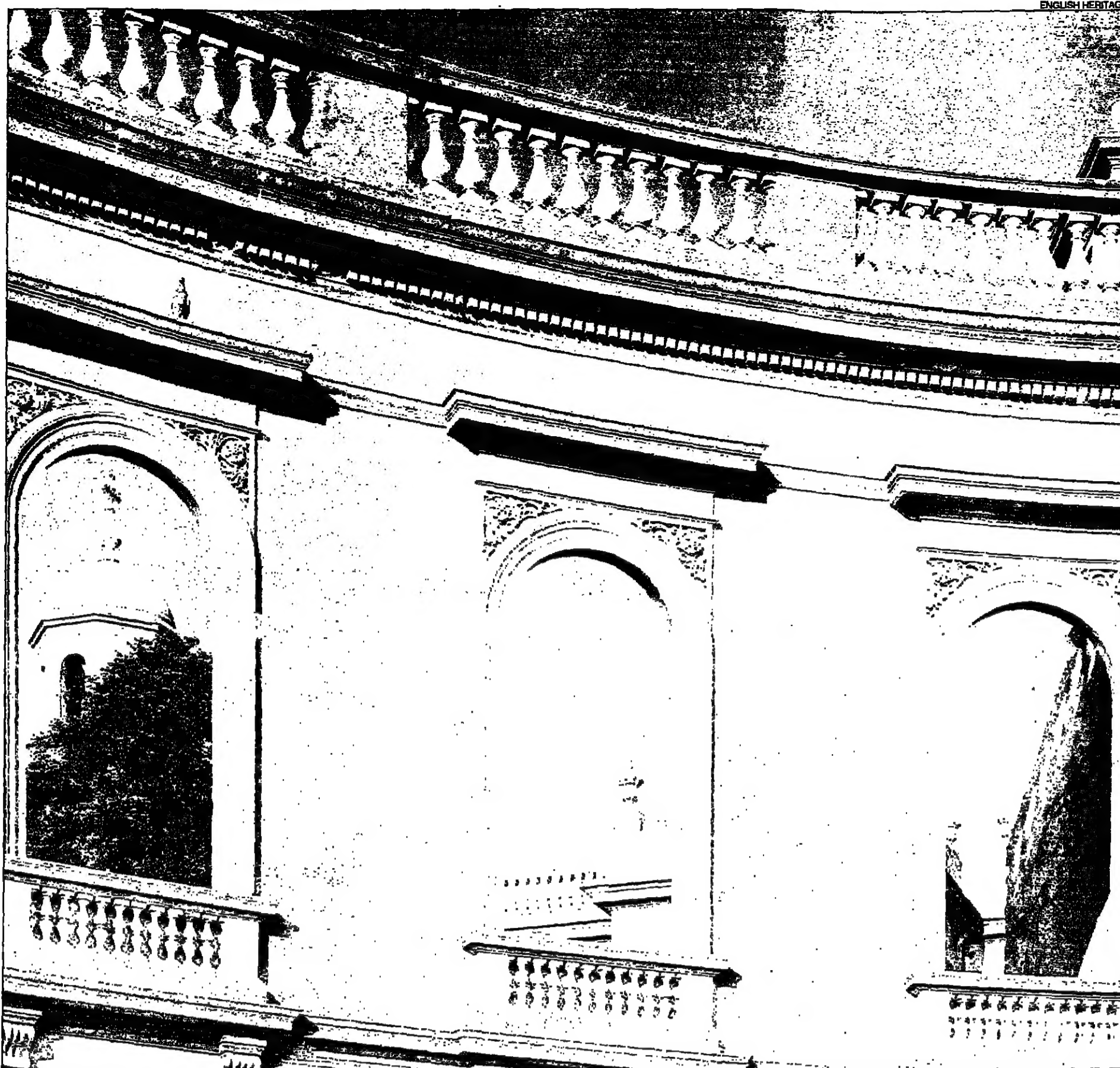
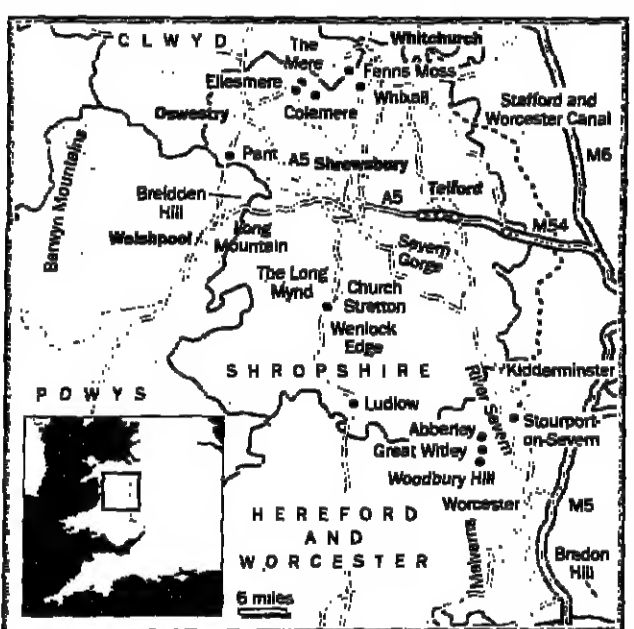
a tree in the great ballroom with jewellery, instead of fairy lights.

Next to the shell of the house is one of the country's finest (but least-known) baroque churches. St Michael and All Angels, which was restored after the fire, contains a stunning collection of paintings by the Italian artist Antonio Bellucci. The house and grounds, now under the care of English Heritage, and the church are open to the public.

Resume your walk, turning left and passing an Ordnance Survey Triangulation point. From here you can detour northwest down the hillside to the village of Abberley and its restored Norman church of St Michael's.

Climbing back to the crest of the hill, bear down through the trees from the trig point to meet the road (Wynnia's Way) and continue to a sign marked Public Footpath to Great Witely. Follow this narrow path until you reach a metalled road. Turn right towards the main road and then left towards your starting point.

Nearby is reputed to have stood the original gospel oak, in the shadow of which Augustine met a gathering of Welsh bishops to try to settle an agreed date for Easter. He apparently had no more success persuading the Celts with argument than did King Henry later with his knights, and he too abandoned the contest.



Window on history: Witely Court, one of England's great houses, abandoned after a fire in 1937, and the restored baroque church St Michael and All Angels, are open to the public

WORCESTERSHIRE FACT FILE

- David Blundell stayed at The Elms, Abberley, Worcestershire WR6 6AT (01299 896444). The house was built in 1710 and stands in the Teme Valley. 20 minutes drive from Worcester and the M5. Prices are £75 for a single room per night, including breakfast. Standard doubles: £110. (Prices 10 per cent lower Sunday-Thursday nights.) Dinner from £25 per person.
- Getting there: Travel by rail to Kidderminster. From London Euston, fares are from £26 for a daytrip. £33.50 return (journey time, two hours 45 minutes). By road, take the M5 heading south and leave at the first exit, for Droitwich.
- Maps: The Ordnance Survey Pathfinder 973 map for Great Witely (E4.50); Landranger 136 - Kidderminster & The Wyre Forest (£4.95).
- Tourist information: Worcester TIC (01905 726311).

Stanley Slaughter enjoys a wander through the gentler side of Shropshire

The less remembered hills

Just past Telford on the A5, the road rises over a slight hill. For a moment, there is a sumptuous view of the county of Shropshire. Far to the northwest are the Berwyn Mountains, rising to 2,000ft. To the southwest are The Long Mynd and Wenlock Edge, and between them the twin peaks of Breidden Hill and Long Mountain.

But it is the Shropshire Plain that holds the eye. Spreading out 180 degrees around you, it is a vast patchwork of rolling green fields. It must rank as one of the great panoramas of England. Most visitors drive on, passing the historic town of Shrewsbury, past the delightful market town of Oswestry and on into the dramatic mountains of North Wales.

Those who do stop invariably turn south to the Blue Remembered Hills of A.E. Housman's South Shropshire and pretty towns like Ludlow and Church Stretton. Few visit the north of this large county, yet there is much there which deserves more than a second look.

Now the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, conscious of its precious inheritance, has set up 30 nature reserves throughout the county, the majority in the north. These reserves form a rich collection of wildlife and landscape that is not usually found in one small area.

The terrain of meres and mosses, which includes dramatic features like the Severn Gorge, were formed as the last Ice Age came to an end about 15,000 years ago. As the ice retreated it gouged out hollows which later filled with water. Today many of those are the meres around Ellesmere, known as Shropshire's Lakeland. Where the land was softer, such as around Whixall and Fenner, peat mosses developed and became home to rare flora and fauna, such as Britain's largest spider, the Great Raft Spider.

In small ponds the spiders skim across the water, sometimes diving to seize their prey, their black bodies marked by two broad yellow stripes. Despite the name, the spider is not that big, its abdomen smaller than a 20p piece, but it has a spider's typical long, spindly legs which make it look bigger.

To the west are Llanymynech Rocks, a dominating limestone outcrop which was quarried until the turn of the century. Below, in the village of Pant, the vast kiln and some of the winding towers have been preserved. But the rocks have returned to



The dramatic Llanymynech Rocks

nature. High up the rock face are dozens of crows, jackdaws and pigeons and the sharp-eyed will also spot a pair of peregrine falcons. These large, grey birds, although plentiful in Wales, are among only ten known pairs in Shropshire.

Sadly the female has twice abandoned her nest this spring, leaving the eggs to the mercy of crows. The ground is covered with many varieties of orchids, including

the beautiful, multi-coloured bee orchid, valerian and wild roses. But North Shropshire has a gentler side, notably among the lakes around Ellesmere. Many of the meres have well-marked paths around them for walkers to enjoy the profuse plant and wildlife.

The Mere, off the main road just outside Ellesmere, is the most popular, especially in April and May when, from the shore, you can see heron, chicks on a mid-Mere island. But Colemere offers a bleaker and more isolated aspect and is home to some 80 species of birds, including finches warblers, tits, swans and geese.

The walk through the woodland of alder, pine and rowan is dominated by the sound of birdsong, while on the stretch that passes alongside the Shropshire Union Canal, you may be lucky enough to see the brilliant blue flash of a kingfisher.

Oswestry, near the Welsh border, is North Shropshire's largest town. Its dominating feature is the castle mound, formed by debris from the Ice Age, and where a fort has stood since pre-Norman times. It was a regular target in the border wars and the Welsh hero, Owain Glyndwr, captured it in his uprising of 1400. However it was not Glyndwr but Oliver Cromwell who reduced it to the piles of stone it is today.

The Puritan leader ordered its destruction as a reprisal for the Royalist sympathies of the town in 1644. It was acquired by the local council last century as a park to mark Victoria's Jubilee. There are some fine ruins in the town and the Old Grammar School, first opened at Griddlegate in 1407, is still in business as a tourist information centre.

There is also a moving memorial to its famous son, Wilfred Owen, the First World War poet who was born in the town. The simple, silver plaque records Owen's birth, his award of the Military Cross in October 1918 and his death a month later.

On either side are verses from two of his best poems, *Anthem For Doomed Youth* and *Futility*. Both are poignantly appropriate. Owen was 25 when he died in a pointless action less than a week before the war ended. His parents, who lived in Shrewsbury, heard of their son's death on the day the church bells tolled to mark the Armistice.

FACT FILE

- Stanley Slaughter travelled with Shropshire Tourism, Long Lane, Craven Arms, Shropshire SY7 6DU (01688 672674), which offers information on where to stay and places to visit.
- How to get there: There is a regular rail service from London Euston to Shrewsbury via Wolverhampton. A supersaver returns, travelling after 9.30am any day except Friday, costs £34. Information on 0345 451950.
- Where to stay: Hawkstone Park Hotel, Wesun-under-Redcastle, near Shrewsbury (01939 200611); from £55 a night. Pen-y-Dyffryn Country Hotel, Rhydyroesau, near Oswestry (01691 653700); from £30 a night per person. 6885: Vynwy Bank, Llanymynech, near Oswestry (01691 830427); from £10 a night per person.
- Further information: Shropshire Wildlife Trust, 167 Frankwell, Shrewsbury SY3 8LG (01743 241691).

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MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Q There is an area in which you can help me which is more etiquette than manners. After five years as a widower, I remarried. My current wife's niece contends she has become my niece and is offended when I introduce her as my wife's niece. Is she my niece? My in-laws from my previous marriage say I am still their son-in-law. Am I? Name and address withheld.

A A niece is defined as the daughter of a brother or sister, so your wife's niece is mistaken when she contends that she is your niece, too. She is correctly introduced as "my wife's niece", or "my niece by marriage". However, since this is obviously important to her, and manners are fundamentally about not doing things that upset others, you could stretch the semantics and refer to her as "our niece." Your in-laws from your previous marriage are also mistaken, even though this earlier bond was ended by death and not divorce. Just as it is unacceptable to have two wives, it is equally inappropriate to boast a double dose of in-laws. They are more suitably styled as "my late wife's parents", while they can refer to you as "our late daughter's husband".

Q There are many conflicting opinions about the use of fish knives. Would you, once and for all, put paid to this seemingly insuperable problem. Maurice Taylor, Shrewsbury

A Poor old fish knives, what scorn these pretty and practical tools attract. The prejudice around them developed in the 19th century, when there was a simultaneous proliferation of new money and novel eating implements. Fish eaters (as they were then called) became associated by some with the *nouveaux riches*. Those who wished to make a point continued to eat fish either with a fork and a small piece of bread in the old Georgian style or later with two forks. The latter method was affected by some diehards until quite recently. Despite all their bad PR, fish knives are to be found at most grand tables. So if you've got 'em and like 'em — then use 'em.

Q A friend of mine who I shall call Margaret Buckton is the tenant of an historic house. Under her lease she shows coach parties and other visitors around in the summer, but she is not allowed to charge under the terms of the trust. Currently, at the end of the summer, she is left with about £15 to give back to the trust. Is there any way she can encourage people to donate more? C.J.J. Lincolnshire

A I suggest she follows the example of a past treasurer to the Conservative Party, who rather

than asking prospective donors outright for a donation towards party funds, achieved substantial results by saying: "We need such and such amount to pay for our poster campaign." She can apply this simple model to her situation by choosing a feature or artefact in the house that needs attention. As she passes it during the tour, she should say plaintively, "This magnificent object was bought by the third earl. Unfortunately, as you can see, it is in need of restoration. We are currently trying to raise money for its repair and any donation, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated." In this way people feel they can contribute to a specific and personal project, and the trust should end up with more than the paltry sum you describe.

Q What should you do when you have not been invited to a business party that you have a legitimate right to attend? The function is being hosted by a company you have done business with and you know several people who are going, many of whom have asked whether you are attending. Should you ask the organisers whether your invitation has been lost in the post, or is discretion the better part of valour? Is it petty or a question of principle? What should you say to your business colleagues? Neil Brooks, London WC2

A It is vital to keep your cool. When asked whether you are attending the party, just say, "I would love to but I am sure I have a prior engagement." Do not demean yourself by ringing up and trying the "lost in the post" trick. However, if you feel you must go (after first asking yourself how important a two-hour cocktail party is in the greater scheme of things), you could try persuading a friend to telephone the organiser and say something along the lines of: "I want to send something to Neil Brooks, but have lost his address. I feel sure he is on your invitation list for your party." If you are desperate, it may be worth following the example of a well-known socialite who often persuades a friend of sufficient standing with the host to organise a supper afterwards for the errant party giver and herself, thus making her indispensable to the guest list. However, her cool rating is zero.

Q Is it still correct form to remove salt cellars and pepper pots from the table after the main course of a meal? L.L. Petersfield

A Absolutely.

Q The author is associate editor of GQ. Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

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By Philip Howard

- LOKI**
a. Poor girl in German fairytale
b. A Caspian Sea fish
c. A bad boy

- RUNOUT**
a. Tanker deballasting
b. Detention centre exercise
c. An artillery design feature

- CONIC SECTIONS**
a. Geometrical figures
b. Shipboard morning parade
c. Weather forecaster's map

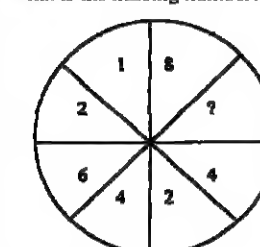
- HIPPOCAMPUS**
a. Big-game photographer's hide
b. A pop university
c. A seahorse

Answers on page 24

TWO BRAINS

THE brain weighs about the same as a bag of sugar — approximately 2 percent of bodyweight. But it accounts for up to 20 percent of the body's energy needs. Each nerve cell in the brain can be connected with up to 100,000 others. Counting each nerve connection in the human brain cortex — the outer layer — at the rate of one per second would take 32 million years.

Question 1:
What is the missing number?



Question 2:
Tri is to sex as quad is to ...?

Answers on page 27.

R.K.

CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

As I was saying, the main lexicographical guides in *The Times* crossword are Collins English Dictionary, the Concise Oxford and Chambers. The first two are relatively similar in their coverage of commonly used vocabulary. Chambers, by contrast, contains more obscure words and meanings, including archaisms, Scottish words, variants of spellings by the likes of Milton, Spenser and Shakespeare, and the occasional hapax legomenon such as "egma" (Costard's attempt at "enigma" in *Love's Labour's Lost*).

My usual practice is to consult all three dictionaries. One of the lessons I have learnt as a

compiler, and even more painfully as a crossword editor, is that dictionaries and other reference works are by no means consistent in definition or even spelling of words.

On one occasion, a reader took issue with spelling the Hungarian dance as "csardas" rather than "csardas". The Concise Oxford includes the former as a variant of the latter. Collins gives only "csardas", whereas Chambers states that "csardas" is an erroneous spelling of "csardas" (so why include it!).

Meanings also vary, particularly (or so it seems to me) in the definition of food. "Entremets" is "a light dish served ... between the main courses" in Chambers

but is also defined as "a dessert" in Collins.

Such subtle distinctions can be important in deciding if a clue is valid. For example, I received an objection to the clue: What translates into "tapas"? (9) on the grounds that "antipasto" means "an hors d'oeuvre", whereas "tapas" is plural. The clue is defensible, however, because Collins defines "antipasto" as "a course of hors d'oeuvres". Finally, I cannot resist quoting the definition in Chambers of "clair" as "a cake, long in shape but short in duration" — the best-known, but not the only, joke tucked away therein.

● Brian Greer is Crossword Editor of The Times.

PICTURE LINE

READERS are invited to suggest what the people in the picture below is saying.

This picture, recently printed in *The Times*, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, E1 9XN.

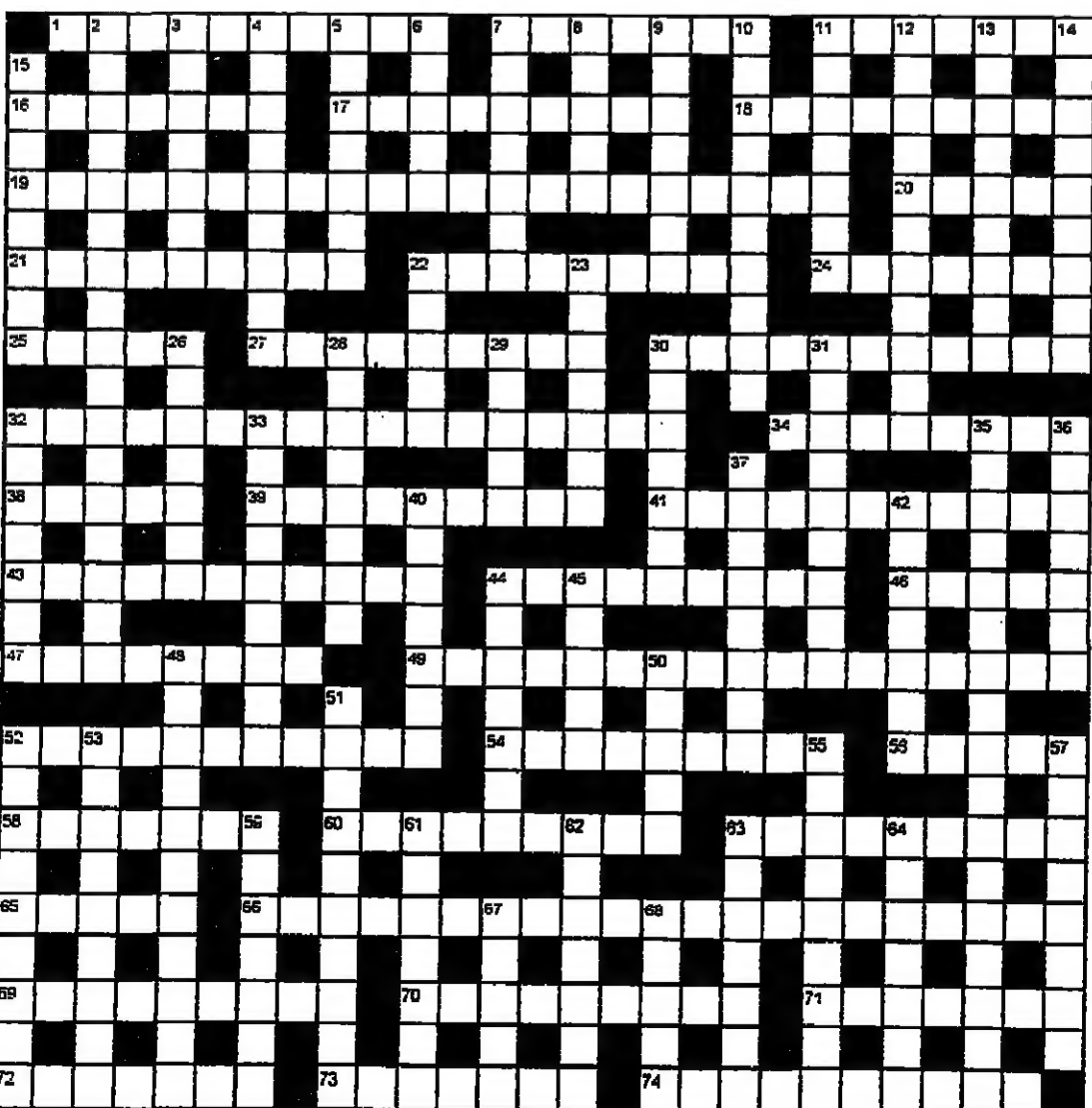
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 24.



The winning caption for last week's picture competition was submitted by the Reverend C. Skilton of South Croydon in London

JUMBO CROSSWORD 129

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £105, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from silver-plated black resin, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 129, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN to arrive by Monday October 6. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, October 11

ALFRED DUNHILL
LONDON

ACROSS

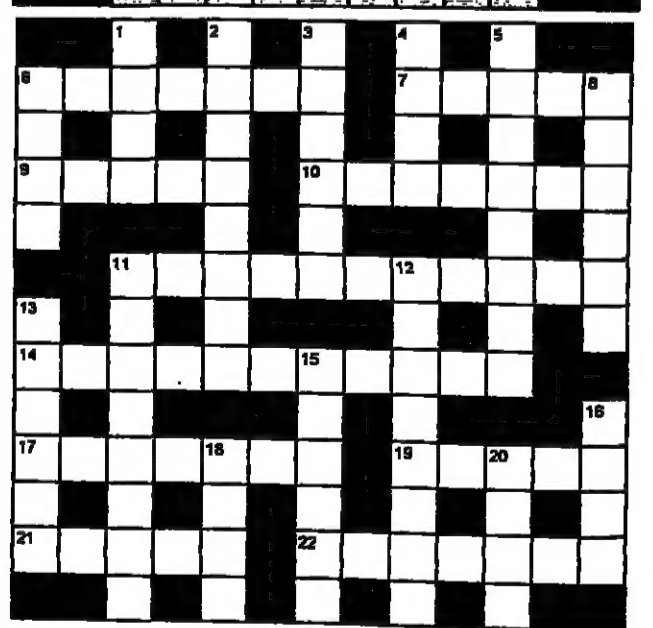
- 1 One benched in by top men not somehow in complete control (10)
- 2 A domestic device for keeping the rest apart (4,3)
- 11 Commercial traveller suffered with case finally jam-packed (7)
- 16 Morally strict saint before going after gold (7)
- 17 Provisional shelter — it's set back in avenue (9)
- 18 Believing something, and trying to impress, after a little drink (9)
- 19 Prepares for various debates and acts with little enthusiasm (4,7,3,7)
- 20 Saying that's not of the BC era? (5)
- 21 Demanding woman could make great man start to tremble (9)
- 22 Endlessly put up with ruler, and favoured showing fresh enthusiasm (4,5)
- 24 Demanding old lover, one with respectable bloke (7)
- 25 Bloomers you could cross in prose sometimes (5)
- 27 Dubious forecast makes Rex join very large company in expectation (9)
- 30 MP seeing supporter embracing short man and companion (1,1)
- 32 Talker on TV is not as clear, I fancy (1,7)
- 34 Endless radiance attaches to an atmosphere around Fairy Queen (8)
- 38 Cras reverberated behind car park (5)
- 39 Unfashionable drapes looking terrible unfurled (9)
- 41 They should make sound excellent within noddles (7,4)
- 43 Fluffy stuff, this was first seen in urban community (1,1)
- 44 Part arose — from its motion? (9)
- 46 What may sound like pirate's sword? (5)
- 47 Flat tall man might wear in many clothes when congregating? (4,4)
- 49 Poorly paid, after such regular contributions? (8,9)
- 52 Confine naughty niece threatening everyone involved? (1,1)
- 54 Lost again at sea and longing for home? (9)
- 56 Fabric made by fantastic spinner finally running out (5)
- 58 Bread is thrown for gull, perhaps (3,4)
- 60 They make court characters look flat (4,5)
- 63 Modern lady — treat in a new way? (6,3)
- 65 Woman, fifty, found in a river (5)
- 66 Following a false trail to obstruct Charles II, perhaps — not perched in an oak! (7,2,3,5,4)
- 69 Seek to establish a view in Sussex or back away from argument? (5,4)
- 70 The sound of this bird makes cat hiss itself (9)
- 71 In mature years, care to resettle in country area? (7)
- 72 Boy grasps some of the Bard's work (7)
- 73 What's found among children, ten — terrible understanding (7)
- 74 The right documents (5,5)

DOWN

- 2 Person met in satire — possibly an unfair caricature? (1,7)
- 3 One may a moment of such lifelessness in a physics lesson (7)

4 Outwit but go too far? (9)

- 5 Invest in hospital department before sign of deterioration (7)
- 6 Point one expressed differently in maths (5)
- 7 I must do some marking — not all correct each error (7)
- 8 One with few brains has nothing inside in a manner of speaking (5)
- 9 Insect meets terrible fate in hot drink (4,3)
- 10 Little girl's state, one cut out to be separate (10)
- 11 Toper is drunk, making sudden thrust (7)
- 12 No amateur cricketer, I — one needing runs as a new recruit (1,1)
- 13 I bet Hazel could beat this girl (9)
- 14 For example, our country diner used kitchen utensil (3,5)
- 15 Merriment subsequently interrupted by expression of disgust (8)
- 22 Players in orchestra not right round singer (5)
- 23 US resident has a way of thinking about the Queen (7)
- 26 Cunning — vehicle is on time (7)
- 28 Old books quoted in measure leading to revolution (8)
- 29 For a teapot, essential component is spout (5)
- 30 Brutal type, however dear to Parisians (7)
- 31 William is holding a way to make the game (9)
- 32 Administrative centre's financial assets (7)
- 33 Announcement of certain policy in seaside feature (9)
- 35 Cinderella I now read afresh — it's a great story for children (5,2,10)
- 36 A bishop desperately loves to forgive (7)
- 37 Vibrating remarkably (8)
- 40 Writer needs an Anglican church to find atonement (7)
- 42 Possibly corporation's empty talk, mostly done to deceive (7)
- 44 Part of weekend that's @ peace, pleasant, almost @ wicked? (7)
- 45 Holy matter engrossing one with halo (5)
- 48 Useful cable I sever accidentally (1,1)
- 50 Collect in a celebration of Eucharist (5)
- 51 Either surplus or deficit could cause argument (10)
- 52 Illustrations showing bathing positions at wicket (9)
- 53 Postmaster of Lear maybe starts to tremble re-enacting old man (9)
- 55 Old instrument with a flashing light outside US city (9)
- 57 Coward's play that may bring tears to the eyes (3,5)
- 59 Call promises to repay unreliable? (7)
- 61 Jumper for sport (7)
- 62 Angry about awkward pet — animal sloughing skin? (7)
- 63 The foreign player at table grabbing dame's frontage is most lascivious (7)
- 64 You may get the point very soon! (2,5)
- 67 Made progress, having to start prevailing fashion (3,2)
- 68 Tenderness is right in the course of passion (5)

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 1210

ACROSS

- 4 Foretell (7)
- 7 A shrub; a sweeper (5)
- 9 Indifferent gesture (5)
- 10 Manifest (7)
- 11 Justification for existence (6,5)
- 14 Establish boundary (of conduct) (4,3,4)
- 17 Kipling's grey-green greasy River (7)
- 19 Gum: imit. jewellery (5)
- 21 Pale (pink): curt (answer) (5)
- 22 Sunflowers artist (3,4)

DOWN

- 1 NE river; damage from use (8)
- 2 Knowing foreign tongues (5)
- 3 Artist's workplace (6)
- 4 Sacred wader (4)
- 5 Gambling game, lethal Russian version (8)
- 6 Job; letters (4)
- 8 Destructive confusion (6)
- 11 Furthest back (8)
- 12 Very wet; fat from roast (8)
- 13 Confused, rotten (eg egg) (6)
- 15 Develop over time (6)
- 16 Net; engage (teeth) (4)
- 18 A banded chalcid (4)
- 20 Deer trail; hole for coin (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1209

- ACROSS: 4 Viper 7 Adequate 8 Dirt 9 Shambles
10 Shrewd 15 An fair 14 Repent 15 Cheers 18 For a fact
19 Iris 20 Levitate 21 Dwell
DOWN: 1 Garish 2 Kettle 3 Cursed 4 Vermouth
5 Palliate 6 Russet 11 Repartee 12 Windfall 14 Refund
15 Catkin 16 Elijah 17 Ruined

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